FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes continued to "aimlessly" bomb Iranian residential areas over the weekend including the cities of Mahabad, Kuhdasht, Pol-e Dokhtar, Saqqez, Eslamabad-e Gharb, and Baneh, Tehran radio and IRNA reported. In addition to 24 February missile attacks on Khorramabad and Borujerd, two Iraqi missiles were also fired on the town of Hoveyzeh on 26 February, IRNA added. In retaliation, Iranian planes bombed administrative, military, and economic targets including the southeastern town of Al-'Amarah, the northeastern town of Rawanduz, 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali ash-Sharqi near the Basra-Baghdad highway, and Ba'qubah, located 35 km from Baghdad, IRNA announced.

Iranian military communiques broadcast by Tehran radio 24-26 February continued to provide details of the "victorious" Khaybar operations carried out along several axes in the Basra and Al-'Amarah Provinces in Iraq and along the Tigris River. In addition to capturing an important supply bridge and an area containing oil deposits, Iranian forces "crushed" five Iraqi counterattacks and downed several helicopters and planes. The Iraqi casualty figure since the start of the Khaybar operations now stands at more than 7,000 men killed and 812 POW's lost, according to one communique. A 7-km area along the Tigris near the strategic Basra-Al-'Amarah route has been "cleared" and Iranian Forces managed to "destroy" a large section of the 19th Iraqi Infantry Division as well as two battalions in the Al-'Uzayr region of Al-'Amarah Province, IRNA and Tehran radio reported respectively. Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali also continued to come under long-range Iranian artillery fire, Tehran radio noted. Among the POW's being transferred from the battlefronts were soldiers from Egypt, Sudan, and Morocco who had been "forced" to fight for the Iraqi regime, Tehran radio's Arabic service announced.

In another development, President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a 24 February sermon reported by Tehran radio, warned that if the United States should undertake "acts of adventurism" to make up for its "disgrace" in Lebanon or to save the Iraqi regime, Iran "would destroy all U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf." Khamene'i said that "as long as our ships can pass through the Strait of Hormuz we will not do anything to anybody"; however, should U.S. warships and their supporters "wish to do anything in the Strait of Hormuz, their fate would decisively be worse than their fate in Lebanon." Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a 26 February speech carried by the radio, warned the USSR that if it really wants neighborly relations with Iran, it must stop providing Iraq with missiles to be used against Iranian cities.

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Fighting continued in and around Beirut over the weekend despite Saudi Prince Bandar ibn Sultan's announcement that a cease-fire would take effect on 24 February, Beirut radio reported. Although the radio said Lebanese Army units took over installations evacuated by the Marines, the Voice of Lebanon cited an AFP report that Amal Movement gunmen occupied Marine installations at Beirut airport.

Jerusalem radio said an IDF spokesman "categorically denied" that five Israeli soldiers were killed in a 24 February ambush near Sidon. Israeli and Lebanese media provided contrasting accounts of a clash the same day between the IDF and Lebanese villagers in Ma'rakah near Tyre. While IDF sources cited by Jerusalem radio said two villagers were "slightly injured" when an IDF patrol fired warning shots to deter stone-throwers, Amal leader Nabih Birri said in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that the Israelis "stormed" the village, killing 3 people and wounding 23 others.

Political Situation — Although Prince Bandar told SPA on 24 February that a Syrian-Lebanese "accord" would be announced simultaneously that evening in Damascus and Beirut, monitored Syrian and Lebanese media did not mention that any agreement had been reached. Beirut radio subsequently reported that Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri would return to Beirut on 27 February to reveal the outcome of the Saudi working team's discussions with Syrian officials. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Elie Salim asked his French counterpart Claude Cheysson to hold contacts with the Soviet Union concerning the latter's amendments to the French draft UN resolution on UN forces for Lebanon. The Soviet amendments would "limit the effectiveness" of UN forces in Lebanon, the radio noted.

Regarding the 17 May agreement, a "responsible" source cited by Beirut radio denied local press reports that President Amin al-Jumayyil has signed a letter authorizing the Chamber of Deputies to reconsider the agreement with Israel. Meanwhile, at a meeting chaired by Pierre al-Jumayyil, the Phalange Party Political Bureau affirmed its confidence in the president and decided to support him in any course he takes, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Nevertheless, Radio Free Lebanon said the Phalangist leaders urged the government to obtain "additional basic guarantees" as part of any peace plan it agrees to.

After meeting with President al-Jumayyil, former President Camille Sham'un stressed that Lebanon should abrogate the agreement with Israel only if Syria provides a guaranteed quid pro quo to withdraw from all Lebanese territory, the radio reported. Earlier, in a report on Lebanon's demands as conveyed through the Saudi mediators, the radio said these include guaranteed Syrian and Israeli withdrawals, the curbing of the opposition, withdrawal of Palestinian gunmen, safeguarding of the Lebanese Army's unity, acceptance of the previous security plan, linking of Zahlah with other Christian areas, guaranteed security for the Christians, and political negotiations between Syria and Lebanon.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, arrived in Amman on 26 February to resume the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue with King Husayn, Amman and Baghdad Voice of PLO radios reported respectively. 'Arafat expressed gratitude to the king for his "good words" during the Palestinian forces' siege in Lebanon and added that the PLO has emerged from Tripoli "stronger and more experienced," Amman radio said. The first meeting between the two delegations took place in an atmosphere of "complete openness and frankness." Viewpoints were exchanged in a "clear and precise" manner regarding the bases on which Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation will be established and current developments in the Arab situation were reviewed, Amman radio added.

Earlier, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir, who had arrived in Amman with 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan on 24 February, cautioned against expecting any breakthrough in a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question, Amman's *JORDAN TIMES* reported. Although this is a year of "political stalemate," it is still important that Jordan and the PLO find a common approach as a basis for joint political moves especially directed toward Europe and the Soviet Union, Al-Wazir added.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the PFLP-General command, in a statement reported by Damascus television, denounced the resumption of talks with Jordan and affirmed that the Palestinian "masses" will not be bound by any results achieved through them. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) also condemned 'Arafat's visit, asserting that his talks with Jordanian officials will give King Husayn a "new card" in an attempt to bypass the PLO and undermine Palestinian representation, Damascus television added.

Syria

Although Syria has defeated the United States in the "battle of arm-twisting" in Lebanon, it realizes that the United States may transfer its attention to Jordan in order to exert pressure to secure a "quick achievement in the negotiations among Husayn, 'Arafat, and Israel," *TISHRIN* stated in a 25 February editorial reviewed by Damascus radio. However, Syria "imposed the Arab nation's will in Lebanon," and it will be able to do likewise in Jordan, *TISHRIN* contended.

Egypt

The international community must stop the supply of destructive weapons and equipment to the Gulf Area, thereby making Iran respond to Iraq's acceptance of "unconditionally ending" the war and beginning negotiations to settle disputed issues peacefully, President Husni Mubarak said in a 25 February speech carried by MENA. Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the president stated that Egypt will not accept any "actual or legal" partition of Lebanon nor will it accept its "fragmentation" into small, weak entities "lacking subsistence for survival."

In a separate development, "large" student demonstrations broke out in Cairo on 26 February for the first time since Mubarak assumed power, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. The protestors demanded more democracy in the country and criticized the normalization of relations with Israel, the radio added.

Iran

Ten high-ranking members of the secret military wing of the defunct Tudeh Party, including Captain Bahram 'Afzali, were executed on 25 February, IRNA reported citing a communique released by the Prosecutor's Office. A total of 101 Tudeh members had been put on trial for attempting to overthrow the government, spying, and violating a ban against military personnel belonging to political parties.

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Al-Wazir Comments on Fatah Meetings in Tunis

JN241314 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, and Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Amman early this morning to prepare for 'Arafat's visit to Jordan. In a statement to the PETRA correspondent, Khalil al-Wazir said that his visit to Jordan follows the intensive Fatah Central Committee meetings that were held in Tunis in the past 2 days. Al-Wazir said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which will begin between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat as soon as 'Arafat arrives in Amman, were among the basic issues discussed during these meetings.

Al-Wazir added that the Fatah Central Committee discussed political, military, and organizational issues — reinforcing the organizational and military structure of the movement and of the Palestinian revolution forces, and tackling the administrative problems. The Central Committee also discussed the trends toward convening the PNC and toward completing the contacts with the competent parties. He added that the intensive Palestinian contacts continue, in light of this, in order to maintain the PLO's march, unity, and safety.

Algiers VOP Comments on PLO-Jordanian Relations

LD270955 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Feb 84

["Part one" of two-part unattributed commentary entitled: "Palestinian-Jordanian Relations: A New Form Based on Independent National Sovereignty"]

[Excerpts] Debate on a new form of Palestinian-Jordanian relations has been increasing daily, and perhaps has become one of the most prominent issues in the Arab arena in general and the Palestinian-Jordanian arena in particular. Although discussion of such an issue has never ceased among Palestinians, it became persistently more prominent after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the proposed initiatives to resolve the Middle East problem, becoming both an Arab and an international issue. When discussing the form and content of Palestinian-Jordanian relations, a retrospective look is essential in order to grasp the historic and cultural roots of these relations.

Palestinian-Jordanian relations started to develop and intertwine with the escalation of the Zionist assault on Palestine. It assumed official and unofficial characterestics, even inside the Jordanian Army in 1947-48 as well as in the other Arab armies. Egypt, Iraq, and Sudan fought under the banner of challenging the implementation of the decision to divide Palestine, which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly, into two countries — the first Arab Palestinian and the second Israeli.

It is common knowledge that these armies were defeated. As a result of this defeat the Zionist state was extended and the parallel Palestinian state was never established. Palestine was divided into three parts. One part became known as the State of Israel; another part, the West Bank, was annexed to Jordan in 1951; and the Gaza Strip was placed under Egyptian administration. The result of the events in Palestine from 1919, and even earlier, until 1948 was to make the Palestinian people homeless, deprived of their homeland, in addition to the more important issue of being deprived of the ability to express their national identity and personality through division and fragmentation of the people and the homeland.

After that, one could say that Palestinian-Jordanian relations entered a new phase, which was characterized by both overt and covert conflict. This was within the context of the Palestinian people's persistent and sacrificial attempts to express their independent national identity. This cannot be interpreted as a secessionist or isolationist tendency. History has recorded the extent of the Palestinian people's commitment to Arab unity and their concern about this unity. It was their main concern throughout the phases of their struggle. The Palestinian people have often made the issue of unity the primary goal in the struggle.

Palestinian-Jordanian relations became strained after 1948, because the Palestinian people were forced, in their difficult circumstances at the time and without a real popular referendum, to agree to the annexation of their land and people to the entity east of the Jordan. The two fraternal peoples of Palestine and Jordan are necessarily joined together by a special relationship based on historical, cultural and geographical circumstances; and the two fraternal peoples naturally aspire to establish a higher form of relations based on a logical principle. Tomorrow we will present the second part of this study.

'Arafat on Reconvening PNC, Iraq-Iran War

JN261804 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has stressed the need to reconvene the PNC. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Hampering the reconvening of the PNC is aimed at liquidating Palestinian legitimacy, controlling independent national Palestinian decisionmaking and destroying the PLO and its achievements. This statement came when brother leader Abu 'Ammar met in Tunis yesterday with members of the old and new committees of the General Federation of the Palestinian Students Union. Brother Abu 'Ammar said that there is a continuous open dialogue with a number of the Palestinian revolution's factions. He added that the results that have been achieved will result in a political consensus and an integrated stand in the Palestinian arena. Brother Abu 'Ammar warned of the dangers to the Arab nation due to the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war. He called for immediate action to stop and contain this war which threatens the entire region.

'Arafat Telephones Iraqi Foreign Minister

JN241752 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] telephoned Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, last night to inquire about the latest developments in the situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front in light of the escalated battles there. 'Aziz explained the actual situation and the course of battles to Abu 'Ammar, affirming Iraq's strong position in this regard.

Qaddumi Confers With Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

JN241748 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met in Kuwait yesterday with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and information minister. They discussed the latest Palestinain and Arab Developments. Abu al-Lutf will meet with a number of Kuwaiti officials on his short visit.

'Arafat Envoy To Tour Nine African Countries

JN241437 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 24 Feb (INA) — A special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will begin a tour of nine African countries tomorrow. Among the countries to be visited are: Nigeria, Cameroon, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe. Palestinian official sources said that Salman al-Harfi, the Palestinian envoy, will deliver personal letters from 'Arafat to the leaders of these countries. The contents of the letters were not disclosed. The envoy will also meet with the leaders of the countries he will be visiting in order to brief them on the current developments on the Arab and Palestinian levels and the situation in the Middle East.

Palestinian Research Center To Open in Cairo

JN271037 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Feb 84 p 1, 19

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* has learned from a ranking Palestinian source that it has been decided to open a Palestinian research center in Cairo. The source said that a Palestinian cultural center will also be established in the Egyptian capital. He added that the Egyptian authorities have agreed to this and all the arrangements have been made. At present, a suitable location is being sought. It has also been learned that Sabri Jiryis, director of the Palestinian research center that was closed in Beirut after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, has been appointed director of the new center in Cairo, while the poet Mahmud Darwish will take over management of the cultural center.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported

An-Nabatiyah Attack

JN241836 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have continued their daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon, inflicting more human and material losses on them. A resistance group attacked a Zionist military patrol north of An-Nabatiyah. The attack, which was carried out with machine guns and hand grenades, resulted in killing or wounding a number of Zionist soldiers. Another resistance group attacked a Zionist military patrol in Riyadh as-Sulh Street at the entrance of Sidon, using machine guns and RPG shells. Eyewitnesses said that a 15-minute clash took place between the resistance men and the Zionist patrol near Az-Za'tari mosque. These eye-witnesses added that the Zionist occupation forces besieged the area following the incident and immediately began a wide mopping up campaign in search of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men but their attempts were in vain.

Attack Near Sidon

JN251753 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have escalated their daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in various parts of occupied southern Lebanon. In less than 24 hours, they carried out two operations against enemy patrols in Sidon, the capital of southern Lebanon. The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have carried out a daring attack against an Israeli military convoy in the center of Sidon. The Israeli patrol was moving on the Al-Burghuliyah road. The attack, which was carried out with machine guns and rockets, destroyed a number of the convoy's vehicles and wounded or killed many Zionist soldiers. A Zionist spokesman admitted the attack, but claimed that only five of his soldiers were killed and six others wounded. The Zionist spokesman added that Israeli forces arrived at the scene of the attack, cordoned off the area, and searched for those who carried out the attack. Reports from southern Lebanon said that the enemy forces arbitrarily fired in all directions, damaging a number of shops.

Less than 12 hours later, the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men used hand grenades to attack an Israeli military patrol at the southern entrance to Sidon. A number of Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded.

INA: Klibi Sends Messages to Arabs on Gulf War

JN241949 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 24 Feb (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today sent messages to the Arab foreign ministers, stressing the need to implement in letter and spirit the Arab League charters and resolutions vis-a-vis the Iraqi-Iranian war, particularly the Fes summit resolutions. Klibi emphasized that whatever threatens the safety of one Arab country threatens the whole Arab nation. In his messages, the Arab League secretary general called on the Arabs to adopt all means which can stop the fighting between Iraq and Iran and resolve the conflict by seeking the arbitration of the international law.

OPEC Committee To Discuss Oil Market Situation

PM241103 London ASH-SHARQ Al-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Feb 84 p 5

[Gulf Bureau Report: "OPEC Inclined Increase Nigeria's Quota; Follow-up Committee To Meet in Geneva 9 March"]

[Excerpt] UAE Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id Al-'Utaybah declared that the OPEC Follow-up Ministerial Committee will hold its next meeting in Vienna on 9 March to study the oil market situation. The committee meeting was scheduled for 10 February but was postponed.

Al-'Utaybah said that the postponement was due to the relative stability of the oil market and to the committee's desire not to arouse caution and expectations in the oil market as a result of its meeting.

In a statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Al-'Utaybah said tht the present situation in the oil market calls for a committee meeting to study developments in the market which is tending toward a decline in demand for OPEC's oil at this stage and particularly in view of the expected drop in the demand for this oil in the second quarter of 1984.

He said that the new Nigerian oil minister will attend the committee's coming meeting in addition to its principal members who, in addition to Committee Chairman Al-'Utaybah, are the oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, and Venezuela.

Al-'Utaybah said that during contact with him the Nigerian Minister had expressed the desire to attend the committee meeting.

Nigerian oil sources say tht the Nigerian Minister will brief the committee at this meeting about the nature of the changes that took place in his country early this year, which are largely due to oil matters. He will also submit his country's view regarding increasing its oil production quota in view of its special economic conditions.

The sources point out that the Nigerian Minister's attendance of the follow-up committee meeting will be the first official Nigerian contact between Nigeria and OPEC — apart from a visit by two Nigerian envoys to a number of OPEC countries at an earlier stage — and that this meeting will be a preliminary test of OPEC's readiness to respond to Nigeria's request to increase its production quota, a request that will be put to the OPEC ministerial council meeting in July in Geneva.

It is recalled that Nigeria's present quota is 1.2 million barrels in accordance with the London agreement of last March. It is now expecting to increase its quota by about 1 million barrels per day, but the sources expect OPEC to approve on increase in Nigeria's quota of only half a million barrels per day.

On the other hand, the request to increase production is not limited to Nigeria, for Iraq has also asked for an increase in its quota in view of the change in its present situation.

Following his arrival in Abu Dhabi yesterday on a few hours' visit to deliver a message from President Saddam Husayn to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan regarding developments in the Iraq-Iran war and oil relations between the two countries, Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqiy stated that his country is asking for an increase in its oil production quota which is now 1.2 million barrels per day in accordance with the London agreement.

He expressed the hope that the matter will be discussed at OPEC's next meeting and that the organization will approve the request. He also expressed the belief that Iraq's current quota does not represent what it should in comparison with Iraq's large crude oil reserves and its previous production level.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Receives Iraqi Ambassador

GF251430 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini prime minister, received here this morning Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani, Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain.

After the meeting, the Iraqi ambassador said he discussed with the Bahraini prime minister the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war. They also discussed bilateral relations, the means of strengthening them, the Arab stand on the war and what should be done to support Iraq in fulfillment of the Arab League's resolutions during the Fes summit conference.

SFRY's Mojsov Meets Foreign Minister, Departs

GF241106 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0909 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Manama, 24 Feb (WAKH) — Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met with SFRY Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lazar Mojsov in Manama today. WAKH has learned that they reviewed current international developments in general, and discussed the Iraqi-Iranian war. They also exchanged views on the Middle East question.

Yugoslavia is a member of the nonaligned good offices committee that was set up by the New Delhi summit conference to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs left Bahrain at the end of a short visit that lasted several hours.

KUWAIT

Envoy in Bahrain Makes National Day Statement

GF260626 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH) — Musa Sulayman Musa, Kuwaiti ambassador to Bahrain, has stated that Kuwait came out of the recent crises more powerful and united. He said that these crises were represented by the market crisis and its result on the monetary market due to the exploitation of economic freedom by some people to achieve fast riches, in addition to the criminal explosions in Kuwait carried out by some hired agents who exploited the Kuwaiti arena and its open doors for all who desire to earn an honest living.

In an address on the occasion of the Kuwaiti National Day, which was relayed by Bahrain television tonight, Musa stated that the excellent cohesion of the interior front — that is between the leadership and people — foiled the targets of the conspirators to create gaps in a united community.

The Kuwaiti ambassador wondered if Kuwait deserves these deeds because it has not hesitated to perform its national and human duty through efforts and money, and it spends over 10 percent of its national revenue on humanitarian aid without any political or other motive. He affirmed in this regard that Kuwait will not be frightened by these acts and will not change its principles, stances, and policies. He said: The policy adopted by Kuwait was the result of a sound awareness of our position, capabilities, and heritage, and total belief in our role in this world. He lauded the stances of the fraternal and friendly Arab and Islamic countries in supporting Kuwait during the crises it went through.

PDRY

DFLP's Hawatimah Addresses Aden Celebration

GF261624 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, Political Bureau member and YSP secretary, expressed our party's profound pride in the developing struggle relations with the DFLP and stressed that these relations will be bolstered and maintained so as to serve the needs of the joint struggle of the Palestinian and Yemeni fraternal peoples against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction. This was stated in his speech delivered during the popular celebration held yesterday evening at the school of socialist sciences on the occasion of the DFLP's 15th anniversary.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, also delivered a speech in which he saluted, on behalf of the Palestinian fighters, the popular masses in the PDRY. He pointed out that the DFLP's position in the ranks of the people, the revolution, the PLO, and the Arab liberation and progressive powers enabled it to attract attention since the very first moment. He stressed that the Palestinian people will not allow the fragmentation of the Palestinian people and the attempts by America's Arabs to drag the PLO toward the Camp David policy, and that they will not permit the attempts of dissension and division to fragment or destroy the PLO. He added: Everyone should know that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people until they settle in their independent country.

He noted the nationalist line that is pursued by the PLO, and which is represented in its political and organizational program and in the Algiers conference resolutions. He demanded that the PLO, its leadership and cadres protect these resolutions and adhere to the one national line. At the conclusion of his talk, Brother Hawatimah expressed his confidence in the protection of the Palestinian resistance and in closing all doors before whoever attempts to fragment the Palestinian people. He also renewed a pledge to continue struggle and revolution until Palestine is liberated and its national independent state is established.

Official Receives Palestinian Communist Group

GF261326 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and first vice chairman of the

Council of Ministers, received in his office at noon today the delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party, headed by Brother Sulayman an-Najjab, assistant secretary general of the party.

Relations between the YSP and the Palestinian Communist Party were discussed, and viewpoints on the developments being witnessed by the Arab region in general, and by the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas in particular, were discussed during the meeting, which also discussed the hostile U.S. imperialist and reactionary plots that are aimed against the Palestinian revolution and at implementing the submissive plans.

Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar stressed the fixed and principled stand of the PDRY party and state in support of the Arab Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO. He noted the importance of cementing the unity and integrity of the Palestinian revolution forces in the face of imperialist and Zionist plots, because this is one of the main guarantees for victory.

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkey's President Evren Continues Visit

Reviews Talks With King

LD241211 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 24 Feb (SPA) — The president of Turkey, Kenan Evren, has said that his talks with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz covered world issues, especially those of the region, the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese problem, the Iraq-Iran war, the Afghan problem, and the Cypriot problem. His excellency confirmed that the talks were positive and fruitful, and that views on them were identical. He said: We listened to his majesty's sound views and wide experience on these issues, and we highly appreciate his majesty's constructive efforts which have an effective role in this region.

His Excellency President Evren confirmed at a press conference held here today his support for the measures taken by the Kingdom toward the problems of the region, including those of Palestine and Lebanon, and said that the Kingdom is considered an important factor for stability in the region and that it strives to preserve its peace and security by way of a great constructive policy. He pointed out that he explained to the king Turkey's views concerning the problems of the region, and that they are in agreement with those of the Arab and Islamic countries.

His excellency reiterated Turkey's support for the just Arab and Islamic causes and its support for them in all international organizations. He pointed out that his talks with his majesty dealt with economic and trade relations between the two countries and said they agreed on a developed and fruitful cooperation, the diversification of exchanges, increasing the volume of trade and said that they found that there is more than one field for fruitful cooperation. The Turkish president said that his country's objective in the region and its policies are aimed at consolidating relations with all the Islamic countries and creating ties like those with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

At his press conference, President Kenan Evren concentrated on the role of his country and its interest in Islamic issues at the international lobbies, its participation in the Islamic summit conferences, its concern with the problems confronting the region, and its fight against international terrorism. His excellency asserted that Turkey wants to find just, durable solutions to the problems which threaten peace and security in the region and the Islamic world as a whole, and that it is contributing to the efforts to restore security and stability, and that it fully supports them.

His excellency also stressed that the most successful and best means to repel the direct and indirect dangers hindering our Islamic peoples from attaining the best living conditions and threatening our nation, its stability, and progress, is collective solidarity in thought and joint action among Islamic and Arab states.

Therefore, Turkey is showing great interest in its ties with the Islamic world and with its Arab brethren out of the belief of the need for collective action — so that we can ensure the right directions in the work of the Islamic Conference Organization for the progress and prosperity of the states belonging to the organization.

From this premise we totally supported the return of Egypt to the Islamic Conference Organization when the members of the organization so desired at the recent Islamic summit conference in Casablanca. This dictates our cooperation and solidarity for revival of the Islamic spirit, because the differences in opinion benefit no one but our enemies.

His excellency pointed to his personal participation in the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference in Casablanca and his election as deputy chairman — giving him the post of chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic Action — and stressed that this is proof of Turkey's interest in the joint action in the structure of the Islamic Conference, and an expression of Turkey's full preparedness to devote its efforts for carrying out successful actions in the service of joint Islamic action.

His excellency, Turkish President Kenan Evren, spoke about the Middle East question and affirmed that Israel is the greatest source of instability in the region, and that it is alone responsible for the tensions there. He said we believe categorically that there is no way to solve the Middle East problem unless Israel withdraws from the Arab territories it occupied after the 1967 war, including Jerusalem, and recognizes the full right of the Palestinian people to the establishment of a legitimate independent Palestinian state. His excellency stressed that for centuries the city of Jerusalem has been Islamic, has maintained its (?Islamic) character and Arab entity, and that together we have made great sacrifices for it.

[Words indistinct] Turkish president the Iraqi-Iranian war and called on the two parties to end the state of war between them, a war which is draining the blood of the sons of the two countries and their resources. He said we are following the effect of this problem with great sorrow and pain, and both in our capacity as a member of the Islamic good offices committee and unilaterally we tried to intervene, asking them to end the war. We shall spare no effort in the future to do everything in our power in order to convince them to end it, because the continuation of the state of war between them not only harms them, but also prevents both the Islamic and the Arab world from devoting their efforts and capabilities to solve both the Palestinian and the Lebanese problems. Moreover, it also hinders solidarity and the desired cohesion in the family of these two worlds.

With regard to the question of Afghanistan, the Turkish president explained that Turkey had condemned from the beginning the intervention in Afghanistan and will continue to exert its efforts aimed at achieving a political solution that would enable the people of Afghanistan to determine their own destiny.

Evren Departs for Jidda

LD241218 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1123 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Summary] Riyadh, 24 Feb (SPA) — Turkish President Kenan Evren left Riyadh at 1330 hours this afternoon for Jidda, and was seen off by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and others.

Envoy to U.S. Warns Against Failure in Lebanon

GF251840 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Feb (QNA) — Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, Saudi ambassador in Washington, has warned against the failure of political efforts being exerted to reach an agreement to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, published today, Prince Bandar emphasized the need to bring all Lebanese parties together to the negotiating table. He expressed optimism over reaching a solution to the crisis.

My country extends aid to Lebanon as a whole, and not the dismembered Lebanon. It plays an important role and proposes everything be brought to the table to find a formula acceptable and satisfactory to all, the Saudi ambassador said. All sects in Lebanon are going to be abolished in the next few months, he added.

Prince Bandar noted that the new cease-fire plan in Lebanon embraces all disputing parties. He also noted Syria's interest in the Lebanese crisis. Syria is as interested as Saudi Arabia in stopping the bloodshed in Lebanon, he said. The Israelis should leave Lebanon immediately. This is the Lebanese people's demand, he added.

Defense Minister Comments on Arms Policy

LD241816 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut, Feb 24, SPA — Saudi Arabia's arms policy is aimed at modernizing its armed forces to the maximum extent, and to diversifying its sources of weapons to ensure its free hand in policymaking and safeguarding the country's vital national interests, Saudi second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, was quoted as saying.

In an interview with the Beirut-based magazine *AL-SAYYID*, Prince Sultan stressed that the Kingdom's policymaking was based on its national, Arab and Islamic interests. Saudi Arabia has continuously supported efforts for realizing a just and durable peace in the Middle East region, Prince Sultan was quoted as saying.

Prince Sultan underlined the role played by the Kingdom in establishing a joint defence strategy among the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). He expressed hope that the forthcoming Arab summit would succeed in adopting a collective, effective strategy to face the dangers threatening the Arab nation, including the dangerous situation in Lebanon, the Israeli settlement policy in occupied Arab territories and the regrettable war between Iran and Iraq, the two neighbouring Muslim countries.

Fahd Receives Message From Nigeria's Buhari

LD261442 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1102 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh 26 Feb (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received this afternoon at his office the Nigerian vice president, Tunde Odiago, who handed his majesty a message from Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari.

UAE

Foreign Minister Meets With U.S. Ambassador

GF251434 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Feb (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with George Quincey Lumsden, U.S. ambassador to the UAE. During the meeting, the U.S. ambassador acquainted Rashid 'Abdallah with the outcome of the tripartite talks which were held in Washington recently between U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan on the Palestinian issue.

French Interior Minister Visits Abu Dhabi

Extends Condolences for Envoy

GF260904 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH) — The French minister of state for interior affairs, Gaston Deferre, arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a brief visit to the UAE to extend condolences on the death of the deceased UAE ambassador to France, Khalifah Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mubarak, who was assassinated by a wicked hand in Paris on 8 February. Upon his arrival, the French minister said that the purpose of his visit to the UAE is to express France's regret, appreciation and respect to the UAE after the martyrdom of its ambassador in France. He said that he came to the UAE in order to personally assure the UAE Government that France will take all the necessary measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future. He said he will brief the UAE officials on the special developments of the painful incident.

Delivers Message From Mitterrand

GF261252 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, received a written message from French President Francois Mitterrand on bilateral relations and joint cooperation between the two countries, and ways for developing these relations. The message was conveyed by Gaston Defferre, French minister of state for interior and decentralization, during the president's meeting with him this morning at the Al-Juhr resthouse.

The meeting was attended by Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the presidential court; Hammudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Jean Honnorat, French ambassador to the state.

The French minister arrived in the country this morning.

French Visitor Departs

GF261254 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Gaston Defferre, French minister of state for interior and decentralization, left Abu Dhabi today after a short visit to the UAE, which lasted for several hours.

Hungarian Trade Delegation Departs Dubayy

GF241108 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Feb (QNA) — A Hungarian trade delegation, led by Tamas Beck, president of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, left Dubayy for home today after a 5-day visit to the UAE, during which it held talks with officials at the UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry aimed at furthering cooperation between the two countries in the economic and trade fields.

During its visit, the Hungarian side proposed to UAE officials a number of joint projects in the fields of agriculture, banking and electricity, and discussed the feasibility of exchanging UAE oil with Hungarian commodities and products, and opening a Hungarian trade center in Dubayy to market Hungarian products in the region.

YAR

President Phones Iraq's Husayn on War Situation

GF261848 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] A telephone conversation took place this afternoon between Brothers 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal republic of Iraq. SABA' has learned that during this conversation the brother leader president and secretary general asked his brother, the Iraqi president, about the situation in fraternal Iraq. The Iraqi president reassured his brother, President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, of the stability of situation in fraternal Iraq and the bold repulsion by the Iraqi troops of the [word indistinct] operations and attacks which have been launched by the Iranian forces for an entire week. The Iraqi president affirmed that all the Iranian attacks failed, and that any other attacks will fail and be crushed on the steadfast rock of Iraq as represented by its army, its people and their combat heroism. At the end of the telephone conversation, the brother leader president and secretary general affirmed our country's principled and firm position in support of fraternal Iraq.

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Yugoslavia's President Spiljak Visits for Talks

Arrival in Cairo

NC251041 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — President of Yugoslavia Mika Spiljak arrived in Cairo at noon today on an official 3-day visit to Egypt. The Yugoslav president is heading for the Al-Qubbah Palace where the official reception ceremony will be held.

President Spiljak was welcomed on arrival at the airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Mubarak Welcomes Yugoslav President

NC251242 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak arrived at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah at 1215 today where President Husni Mubarak headed the well-wishers who welcomed President Spiljak.

Upon his arrival at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah, the Yugoslav president was greeted by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah; Consultative Council Chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, the deputy prime minister and petroleum minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; a number of ministers; Cairo Governor Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib; the chiefs of the main armed forces services; Yugoslav Embassy staffers; and the Yugoslav community in Cairo.

His excellency was also greeted by an honor escort headed by Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of International Investment and Cooperation. The honor escort included Mamduh Mustafa 'Abd ar-Razzaq, Egyptian ambassador to Yugoslavia; Colonel Muhammad Husayn 'Abd al-Hadi, presidential aide-de-camp; and Muhammad Ra'uf Fikri 'Abidin, presidential office secretary.

The Yugoslav president was given an official welcome at the Presidential Palace. Immediately upon his arrival, a military band played the Yugoslav and Egyptian national anthems. The two presidents then reviewed the guard of honor. Two small girls then presented bouquets. Afterward, the Yugoslav president shook hands with the leading well-wishers.

During his 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Yugoslav president will be accompanied by an official delegation. This delegation includes Lazar Mojsov, federal secretary of foreign affairs; Rade Pavlovic, a member of the Federal Executive Council; Lazar Zivulj, Yugoslav ambassador to Egypt; Zibojin Jazic, foreign policy adviser to the President of the Yugoslav State Presidency; and Dozan Litvinovic, director of the Middle East and North Africa desk at the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry.

Mubarak-Spiljak Talks Begin

NC251356 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he will have talks with President Husni Mubarak. The talks will deal with international questions in general, and the Middle East situation in particular. The talks will also touch upon nonaligned issues and the bolstering of bilateral relations between the two countries in all domains.

After the ceremony of the official welcome, President Mubarak accompanied his guest to his office where they held a session of talks which was confined to the two presidents. The Egyptian-Yugoslav talks are expected to resume tomorrow morning at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah.

President Mubarak will give a dinner banquet tonight at the Presidential Palace in 'Abidin in honor of the Yugoslav president and the delegation accompanying his excellency on the occasion of his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mubarak Speech at Banquet

NC252044 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has called on the international community to end the tragic situation existing in Lebanon by ending the Israeli occupation by buttressing the UN peacekeeping role in Lebanon and by giving a chance to the Lebanese people to achieve an acceptable formula for national reconciliation.

In a speech he delivered during a banquet he hosted in honor of Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak this evening, President Husni Mubarak emphasized that Egypt will not accept harming Lebanon's territorial and national unity, nor its actual or legal partition. He said that Lebanon must return to what it was before — an example of tenacity, cohesion, and creative coexistence among all the factions and ideologies.

In his speech, President Mubarak pointed out that the Palestinian issue is regarded as the crux of the conflict in the Middle East. He called for activating the efforts for settling this issue within the framework of an integrated concept whereby Israel will recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their national entity on their land. Likewise, the Palestinians will recognize Israel's right to exist and live in peace. Therefore, the PLO must actively participate in any dialogue or negotiations.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, President Mubarak explained that the continuation of this war is not only dangerous to the two warring states, but also to all the Gulf states, the Middle East, and West Asia. He said: We call on the international community to assume its duty in this respect by refraining from supplying lethal weapons and the means of destruction so that Iran will respond to ending the war unconditionally.

The following is the text of the speech delivered by President Husni Mubarak:

Dear friend President Mika Spiljak; dear friends:

It pleases me to welcome you to the good land of Egypt, whose people welcome you as loyal friends and sincere comrades in our common march on the road to nonalignment. We welcome you as partners in the struggle for the establishment of a better world where cooperation would replace dispute and conflict, equality would replace exploitation, and where efforts would be mobilized to serve the causes of peace, security, and progress.

Our fourth meeting since you assumed responsibility in May 1983 embodies our mutual eagerness to strengthen the bridges of liaison and interaction between the two countries and peoples in various fields. This also shows our eagerness to maintain our special relations that were generated by the pioneering role which the two countries played in calling for the establishment of the nonaligned group. Our special relations were also generated by the responsibility we shouldered in defending the rights and interests of world states, especially their right to participate in the revolution of modern technology, in the development of production and services in the interest of the toiling masses, and in the establishment of the relationship between the states of the north and those of the south on a just basis. This basis will achieve a balance between the producer and the consumer, and will put an end to the division of the world. The world is now divided between advanced industrial states that have all the basic factors for scientific and technological development and for raising the standard of production, and developing states whose role is still based on providing the industrial states with raw materials.

During my visit to your friendly country in September 1982, we talked about the opportunity that is open to the Third World nations. This is an opportunity to influence the course of events and establish a relationship between the two sides on firm bases and foundations that will ensure their stability and ability to adapt to the mounting requisites of the age. The human race must wage the battle of remaining united with no difference between north and south, between producer and consumer, and between advanced and developing.

We feel that the group of nonaligned countries lost numerous chances in the past to move as a tenacious and strong front having a clear vision and one position, capable of defining its steps and approaching its aims in a manner based on an integrated program, taking the facts of contemporary international life into account. This program is also based on the ability of the nonaligned states to attain the required development in the international system [nizam] through dialogue, understanding and interaction, and not through confrontation, exacerbation of disputes and contradiction.

In the past few years, signs appeared indicating that harmony and cohesion will return to the movement, that obstacles will be removed from its path, and that its huge resources will be directed to serve the common issues of the nonaligned peoples. We are all dutybound to act to strengthen this trend and maintain the current momentum created by our faith during the serious international situation. This momentum has also been created by our feeling of the important role we can play if we unify our ranks, dispose of foreign influences, and redefine our priorities and interests in order to achieve our common good.

Egypt and Yugoslavia are in the forefront of countries that are capable of playing a role in this respect. The starting point for both countries is to develop bilateral cooperation in all fields. This cooperation is particularly important in the economic sphere regarding increasing production, improving the quality of products, developing agriculture and agricultural industries, and absorbing modern technology in construction and transport. It suffices to say that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries increased from $29 million in 1971 to $240 million in 1982. We believe that there is more room for further development in this area, because the areas in which we can coordinate our resources and efforts and exchange expertise and experience are huge, and have not yet been exhausted.

Furthermore, the tripartite agreement for trade expansion and economic cooperation, which was renewed in October 1983 between Egypt, the SFRY and India, constitutes another stride forward on this path. This stride must be nurtured. It must be given every chances for success so that it will yield the desired fruit and give new examples of the multi-sided cooperation among the Third World peoples. These peoples are passing through a similar stage of economic and social development, as well as similar circumstances.

We are not content with cooperation among nonaligned countries using the same principles and concepts that govern relations with other countries of the world. We are looking forward to the establishment of a system involving participation in industrial and agricultural production. It also involves participation in absorption of technology that is suitable to our societies and cultural environment, as well as coordination in marketing products. This must be based on integration and cooperation, and not individual competition and rivalry that deprive the medium and small countries of the power and ability to affect realities. In brief, what is required is to achieve interaction and participation in all phases of production and distribution, and we must not be content with commercial activities and exchange of commodities, because this is the sound path toward integration and balance.

Dear friend President Mika Spiljak,

We witness these days events of utmost seriousness in an area which receives your utmost interest. This is by virtue of your knowledge of the close link between stability and the settlement of issues in the Middle East and security and peace in southern Europe, particularly the Mediterranean Basin states. Therefore, our mutual commitments dictate that we should carry out an effective role to change the explosive situation in the area, because it warns of grave consequences from which no one would be saved.

The entire international community is required to end the tragic situation in Lebanon by ending the Israeli occupation and strengthening the UN role in maintaining peace and security in Lebanon. The international community must also give the Lebanese people an opportunity to arrive at an acceptable national reconciliation formula, not based on sectarianism and fanaticism, but on forbearance, cooperation, and the keen desire to forge into one entity.

We would like to clarify that we will not accept harming Lebanon's regional and national unity nor accept any actual or legal partition in Lebanon. We will not accept the fragmentation of Lebanon into small weak entities lacking subsistence for survival. Lebanon must return to its previous status as a model of cohesion, solidarity, and creative coexistence among various factions and ideologies. This is a responsibility which cannot be given up or ignored.

Light must be focused on the Palestine question because it is the crux and essence of the conflict. Unless the various aspects of this issue are tackled, the area will continue to live on a volcano, vulnerable to the escalation of violence and devastation, and deprived of security and stability. Therefore, we must act to stimulate the efforts being made to settle this problem within the framework of an integrated concept based on mutual and simultaneous recognition of rights. This must be done in a way so that Israel recognizes the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and establish their national entity on their land, and for the Palestinians to recognize Israel's right to exist and live in peace.

All this requires an active participation by the PLO in any dialogue or negotiations that will take place to reach a comprehensive and just settlement.

You realize, dear brother, the danger of the continuing Iranian-Iraqi war not only to the warring states but, also to other states in the Gulf area, in the Middle East, and in West Asia. We are still demanding that the international community shoulder its duty in this respect by stopping the supply of destructive weapons and equipment. This will make Iran respond to Iraq's acceptance of unconditionally ending the war and entering into negotiations. It will force Iran to enter into negotiations to settle the disputed issues by peaceful means, which are compatible with the close ties existing between the two fraternal peoples.

On our African Continent, we find that the Government of South Africa is still putting obstacles in the path of achieving an unconditional independence for Namibia. We are waiting for the results of the efforts that are being exerted in this regard, and which are aimed at halting the aggression toward Angola and other African confrontation states. We are also waiting for the results of efforts regarding the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia. This withdrawal would restore normal conditions that would enable that area's peoples to devote themselves to tackling the challenges of construction, advancement, and development.

The current conditions in Africa and the hopes we are pinning on the future require the strengthening of ties of solidarity and fraternity among all the African states, regardless of any casual differences that erupt among them. They also require the strengthening of the OAU and increasing its capability to move effectively to tackle the problems leading to the fragmentation of the unity of action and harming the relations among countries with the same interests. We insist on settling pending problems — particularly the Chadian and Sahara problems — within the African framework, remote from the maneuvers of polarization and the policy of axes and division.

On the other hand, we realize the firm relationship between peace and stability in the area in which we are living and security and peace throughout the world. On this basis we call for the adoption of necessary steps in order to resume the nuclear arms limitation negotiations. We also call for giving a new impetus to the efforts which were exerted in the sphere of disarmament, because the situation is putting human existence itself to question. There is no option before us other than to defend peoples' rights to a safe and dignified life, remote from fear, bloody conflicts and destruction, because the purpose of a human being is to build a country and spread life in all its areas.

Brothers and dear friends, I am pleased with my fourth meeting with my friend Mika Spiljak and his comrades. This meeting truly brings to our minds the history of the brilliant course of the relationship between our two countries and friendly peoples. Yugoslavia stood at our side in times of war and peace alike; it has understood our policy which is built on adherance to righteousness and principles, and rejection of aggression, domination, and exploitation. It has also built bridges of cooperation with us in the battle of advancement, development, and modernization. It has been a good friend and partner.

Allow me to ask you to stand up in salutation of President Mika Spiljak, present friends, the entire Yugoslav people, and the firm friendship between the two countries and peoples.

Spiljak Makes Banquet Speech

NC252128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak has stressed that the complexity of the Middle East problem is due to Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy in the area and its rejection of a solution to the crisis on acceptable international bases with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a dinner banquet given in his honor by President Husni Mubarak tonight, the Yugoslav president expressed his country's concern about the developments in the Lebanese crisis and demanded the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, President Spiljak said his country is constantly seeking to end the war — one which is causing great destruction and casualties in the two countries — through bilateral meetings, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations.

The Yugoslav president praised Egyptian-Yugoslav relations and affirmed that his visit aims to maintain the progress in the development of bilateral friendly relations and cooperation within the framework of the goals and policy of the Nonaligned Movement.

Following is the text of Yugoslav President Spiljak's speech:

Mr President, dear friends:

Thank you for your welcome and good wishes. I also thank you for the care and good reception accorded to us.

I came to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt with great satisfaction. I recall with pleasure the useful talks which we had recently in Belgrade and New York. Yugoslavia pays great interest to maintaining its relations with friendly Egypt because of our two peoples' mutual interests and our cooperation in various fields, whose bases Presidents Tito and 'Abd an-Nasir laid down when Yugoslavia and Egypt founded the nonaligned policy together.

This visit gives me the opportunity to acquaint myself closely with your large and beautiful country — ancient Egypt, one of the cradles of world civilization. We in Yugoslavia follow with interest your achievements in the social, political, and economic fields. We wish the Egyptian people further successes along the road to consolidating their independence and developing their country. This desire reflects our mutual lasting interest.

Egypt has always been one of Yugoslavia's most important partners from among the nonaligned and developing countries. Through joint work for many years we have achieved great results, particularly in peaceful (?exchanges), in the investment field, in industrial cooperation, and in other fields. It is understood that there is still room for more and better forms of cooperation in many fields. This requires the exertion of mutual efforts, as indicated by our mutual experience. I am confident that we will witness the achievement of new and far-reaching benefits for Yugoslavia and Egypt in the coming years.

Many of the joint interests transcend bilateral relations. They are associated with comprehensive peace, general security and advancement. All these matters are directly threatened by the current conditions of international relations. I mention the competition between the two blocs, the arms race and its more dangerous dimensions, and the conflicts and crises that are not being solved. The current situation requires before anything else the resumption of negotiations between the superpowers and the exertion of the most extensive efforts to achieve a comprehensive relaxation of the situation.

The Middle Eastern arena has been fragmented for many long years by crises and conflicts. The main cause is Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy, which is still resisting the settlement of the crisis on acceptable international bases with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is therefore the duty of the entire international community to make possible the achievement of the Palestinian people's basic human rights of a free and dignified life on their own soil in an independent state. Now, more than at any time in the past, it is necessary to support the Palestinian people's struggle.

Yugoslavia attaches the utmost importance to the united efforts of those forces that want real peace, stability, and progress to be an equal right for every country and every people in this blazing part of the world.

We are concerned by the escalation of the Lebanese crisis and its consequences. We are confident that the efforts for the earliest possible resumption of internal dialogue in Lebanon for national reconciliation and for respecting the real interests of all the (?parties) deserves the widest support. Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and nonalignment are sublime interests that cannot be protected unless all the foreign forces withdraw from this country. This is of fundamental importance for the security of the entire Mediterranean area.

Yugoslavia has always sought the solution of all disputes by peaceful means and by meticulous observance of the principles of equality, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in domestic affairs. This is our principled stand that is based on the UN Charter, as well as on the spirit of the resolutions we have made at the nonaligned conferences.

The nonaligned countries are very concerned both about matters relating to conflicts among them and about use of arms and threats anywhere in the world. At this moment we are particularly concerned about the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, which has caused great destruction and casualties in both countries. We are constantly seeking to end the war as quickly as possible through bilateral meetings, the Nonaligned Movement, and at the United Nations.

Such a contribution is inadequate in relation to international conflicts. A solution to the international economic situation is at a standstill. The developing countries' situation is becoming more difficult. A cause of concern is the lack of understanding and even the opposition by certain developed countries to the justified demands of the developing countries. We are confident that the world can emerge from the economic crisis through cooperation on an equal basis. This will subsequently ease the unequal burden of the developing countries and will enhance their development in the interest of the international economy.

Mr President, all this illustrates the scope of cooperation between our two countries and the other nonaligned states, and the importance of the contribution of the Nonaligned Movement's policy. Our policy is based on the resolutions adopted in New Delhi and on the reputation enjoyed by the Nonaligned Movement in the world as an independent factor outside the two blocs.

The nonaligned Arab Republic of Egypt has one of the most important positions in this area. We are confident that according to your potential you will contribute with other Arab countries and the nonaligned countries toward creating the conditions for a just peace and security and toward the general progress of the Middle East countries and peoples. I am certain that our meeting will encourage the further development of friendly relations and cooperation between Yugoslavia and Egypt, both in the bilateral field and in achieving the Nonaligned Movement's goals and policy.

I raise this toast to your health, to all our Egyptian hosts, for further progress in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and for the friendship and cooperation of our two peoples.

Mubarak, Spiljak Resume Discussions

NC261101 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and Mika Spiljak, president of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, this morning held their second session of discussions in the Al-Qubbah Palace.

Meanwhile, the two delegations to the discussions held a session. Attending on the Egyptian side were: Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, deputy prime minister and petroleum minister; engineer Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity and energy; Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of international investment and cooperation; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and presidential office director for political affairs; Ambassador Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq, Egyptian ambassador to Yugoslavia; and Ambassador 'Ala' ad-Din Khayrat, director of the Foreign Ministry's Eastern Europe desk.

Spiljak Comments on Talks

NC261356 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Following today's talks with President Mubarak, Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak said the talks were very useful and dealt with all international issues. They also dealt with promoting bilateral relations in every domain, particularly the economic. Spiljak said he and Mubarak have agreed to the steady broadening of the cooperation between the two countries.

Spiljak commented on the role of the nonaligned regarding the Iraq-Iran problem, saying: We have discussed this subject. We are extremely concerned about the continuation of this war. Our stand here dovetails with that of the Egyptian side. These stands will be declared in the joint statement to be issued tomorrow. Spiljak said the two sides agreed to engage in far-reaching activity in this respect. He added that in all the subjects discussed there was a remarkable similarity of views.

On the Palestinian issue, the Yugoslav president expressed hope that it will be solved, describing it as the essential and central issue in the Middle East. He called for providing the Palestinian people with all the support needed to establish a Palestinian state.

On the Lebanese issue, the Yugoslav president said the two sides expressed identical views on the way to solve this issue. The Yugoslav president said the Yugoslav prime minister's visit to Libya was aimed at bolstering bilateral economic cooperation.

Bilateral Talks Conclude

LD261739 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1610 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (TANJUG) — Yugoslav-Egyptian relations rest on firm foundations laid by Presidents Tito and 'Abd an-Nasir. These relations are now in the stage of intensification, and it is the wish of both sides that cooperation be expanded in every sphere.

This would be in a nutshell the conclusion of the 2-day Yugoslav-Egyptian talks which ended in Cairo this afternoon. An official communique on these talks will be released tomorrow.

Mika Spiljak, SFRY Presidency president, and Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, also held today 90 minutes of private talks. Later they were joined by members of the two delegations. The fact that the Egyptian delegation included, in addition to the president of the republic, the prime minister, two deputy prime ministers and five ministers shows the significance which official Cairo attached to the meeting with guests from Yugoslavia.

The two delegations, and in particular Presidents Spiljak and Mubarak, exchanged views on a number of issues, from bilateral to international ones. As President Spiljak stated after the talks, on all these issues the Egyptian and Yugoslav attitudes are very close.

The themes which also dominated the talks today were the problems of the developing countries, the activities of the Nonaligned Movement, the Middle East, Lebanon, the Palestinian question, the Iran-Iraq war and, of course, the relations between the two countries. Lazar Mojsov, the chief of Yugoslav diplomacy, acquainted the members of the Egyptian delegation with the Yugoslav views on the present international situation — particularly in Europe — as well as on relations between East and West.

The Middle East was, however, the focus of attention, which is normal if one bears in mind that there is still no end to the crisis in this region. The joint attitude of the two delegations is that the Palestinian question is the pivotal one of this crisis, and that this question should be resolved first if lasting peace in the Middle East is to be achieved. On this occasion too, Yugoslavia advocated a just solution of the Palestinian question: giving the right to Palestinians to self-determination and creation of their own state. Official Cairo, too, holds the identical view.

President Mubarak briefed his guests from Yugoslavia on the Egyptian view on the Lebanese crisis. In brief, Cairo advocates the replacement of the Western Multinational Forces with UN forces, unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon, followed by the withdrawal of Syrian troops and, lastly, a national conciliation conference of Lebanon.

As far as the Iran-Iraq was is concerned, the two sides agreed on the need for an imediate end to the conflict and a peaceful and equitable solution of the dispute.

During the exchange of views on the activities of the Nonaligned Movement, the Egyptian side stressed the need for greater involvement of nonaligned countries in the economic and political sphere. The Yugoslav side stressed the need for cooperation of activity by nonaligned coutnries, especially with India as chairman of the movement, in connection with all the issues discussed in Cairo today.

The talks on economic cooperation between Egypt and Yugoslavia were very specific. Mika Spiljak pointed out the opportunities for higher forms of cooperation, while Husni Mubarak mentioned several spheres where a greater breakthrough is possible. This refers to agriculture, cooperation in the production of tractors, housing construction and tourism. The SFRY Presidency president stressed in particular the significance of the tripartite cooperation among Yugoslavia, Egypt and India. This is economic cooperation which has great political significance, Spiljak said.

Both sides noted their deep concern at the continuous worsening of the position of developing countries. Particular reference was made to possible actions by nonaligned countries in resolving this problem.

The talks today demonstrated that Yugoslavia and Egypt have many common points and points of contact. It is obvious that cooperation in all spheres is on the increase, and that the visit by President Spiljak and the recent visits by Lazar Mojsov, chief of Yugoslav diplomacy, and by Admiral of the Fleet Branko Mamula, federal secretary for national defense, are paving the way for even better and more intensive relations.

Spiljak Departs Cairo

NC270919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — SFRY President Mika Spiljak left Cairo this morning for Aswan to visit the High Dam area.

The Yugoslav president was accorded an official farewell at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah, where President Husni Mubarak led the officials who saw off President Spiljak.

President Spiljak is due to leave Aswan this afternoon for the YAR. He will also visit the PDRY.

SFRY's Secretary Mojsov Makes Brief Visit

NC241527 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — Laza Mojsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo today on a visit to Egypt. He will join the delegation accompanying Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak on his 3-day visit to Cairo. Mojsov was met at Cairo airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

On his arrival, Mojsov said the Yugoslav president's visit to Cairo is significant because of the current tension in the Middle East. Mojsov said the Egyptian and Yugoslav presidents will focus their talks on the Middle East problems, particularly the Lebanese problem, the escalation in the Iraq-Iran war, and the problems facing the area. He noted that the nonaligned countries are exerting efforts to stop international conflicts.

Mojsov said he is pleased with the growth of relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia. He said this coming meeting between the Egyptian and Yugoslav presidents reflects the extent of mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement he made at the airport, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the Yugoslav president's visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Mubarak will focus on the two countries' nonaligned policy and on bilateral cooperation. The visit will also take up international problems and the promotion of relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, 'Ali said Egypt hopes efforts for a settlement among the conflicting parties will be successful. The only solution to the Lebanese crisis, as Egypt has stressed, is the reconciliation of the Lebanese parties and the formation of a national government that can settle sectarian and local conflicts so as to safeguard Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity.

Responding to a question about the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, 'Ali said the escalation of operations by Iran at this phase endangers peace and the area as a whole, and constitutes a danger for both Iran and Iraq. He emphasized that the international community, the nonaligned states, and the Islamic states reject such escalation, which must stop in the interest of both countries.

Departs for Moscow

NC270248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2032 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Lazar Mojsov left Cairo aboard a special plane for Moscow this afternoon. The Yugoslav minister arrived in Cairo on Friday and joined the delegation accompanying Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak.

Mojsov was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid.

Mubarak Comments on Gulf War, Mideast Issues

NC242250 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war will exhaust the resources of both countries. He said that the Gulf war is a very big problem, that there will be no conquerer or conquered, and that both the Iraqi and Iranian people will be harmed.

In a statement to Yugoslav television, which will be published in the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* tomorrow, President Mubarak said it is not clear to us when this war will end. We had often said that Iraq was required to withdraw to its international borders. Now Iran must listen to this and stop this war. Iran, however, is continuing the war and Iraq is forced to defend itself.

Mubarak spoke about the Lebanese problem and described it as a great problem. He stressed that the basic condition for solving the Lebanese problem is the withdrawal of Israel and the other forces from Lebanese territory as a prelude to a solution. Efforts must continue to solve the Palestinian problem because it is the crux of the conflict. Mubarak warned that unless the Palestinian problem is solved, no solution can be found for the Lebanese problem.

Speaking about the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, Mubarak said the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue is a sound basis for seeking a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue and people. Mubarak touched on Egyptian-Arab relations and affirmed that excellent relations exist with the majority of Arab leaders.

Mubarak asserted that he has great appreciation for the Syrian people and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and that the acquaintance between him and President al-Asad is long, and goes back to the days when Al-Asad was a pilot in Egypt. Mubarak expressed his hope that things will go back to normal and that each side will understand the other's stance.

Regarding Libya, Mubarak emphasized that we will not attack anyone. We hope that the (?Libyan) leadership will understand the extent of the efforts Egypt is exerting to solve problems and not to exacerbate things. He added: We do not complicate (?things) — this is our stand. The Libyans are free to conclude what they want.

Referring to Egyptian-Soviet relations, Mubarak pointed out that these relations are improving and added that the return of ambassadors will take place at the proper time. Mubarak added: We have repeatedly said that the role of the Soviet Union as a superpower cannot be ignored, because the Soviet Union has an impact on the Middle East. The United States also has its role and responsibility in solving the problem.

Asked about Egypt's relations with the Islamic world, Mubarak said the latest Islamic conference summit was a demonstration of support for Egypt and its people.

Concluding his statement, Mubarak described Egypt's relations with Yugoslavia as established and excellent. He said: My visit to the SFRY and the SFRY president's visit to Egypt are indications of the excellent relations between the two countries.

Mubarak gave this interview to Yugoslav television on the occasion of SFRY President Spiljak's visit to Egypt.

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,384 — 24 February

JN241822 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,384 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 24 February 1984]

[Text] in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

On every day of the hostile war, which the criminal Iranian enemy imposed and insisted on continuing against our struggling country and proud people, the proud Iraqis' resoluteness increases, their determination to defend the homeland and the nation's honor gets stronger, and the will and heroic determination of our valiant Armed Forces to deter and crush the invading aggressors become more powerful.

The results are as follows:

1. Our valiant forces continued to strike at the enemy units and remnants in the areas east of Basra and Chilat in the two sectors of the III and IV Army Corps. Our forces clashed with the enemy, using all types of weapons. The brave soldiers of Iraq managed to inflict heavy losses on the enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment. They also captured a large number of enemy personnel, who were later evacuated to the rear. More than 900 enemy dead were found, and 11 vehicles, 3 bulldozers, 2 excavators, one 106-mm gun were destroyed in the Ash-Shib sector. These losses were sustained during the battles waged on 21 and 22 February, in addition to the losses mentioned in yesterday's communique No 1,383.

The enemy losses in the IV Army Corps' sector during the previous battles amounted to 2,000 killed, a large number wounded or captured, and 30 boats loaded with personnel destroyed, in addition to the losses previously mentioned.

2. Our bold Air Force aircraft today launched daring attacks on the enemy troop concentrations, vehicles, and concentrations in the operational sectors of the III and IV Army Corps in the areas east of Basra and Maysan. Other formations of our bold aircraft attacked important military targets deep inside the enemy territory, dealing them violent blows during which the enemy sustained large losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. All our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our fighter planes today carried out 214 combat missions.

3. Our helicopter gunships today carried out violent combat missions against the enemy positions, units, and troop concentrations in the sectors of the III and IV Army Corps, scoring direct and effective hits. They caused a large number of dead or wounded, and destroyed a number of the enemy vehicles and equipment. The known losses were the destruction of seven vehicles, two armored personnel carriers, six boats, one excavator, and a number of enemy troop concentrations. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our helicopter gunships today carried out 132 combat missions.

4. At 0945 today, one enemy F-14 aircraft was shot down in the Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] area inside enemy territory in a dogfight between our aircraft and the enemy aircraft. Two other enemy fighter planes tried to raid our forward positions in the Ash-Shib sector. Our air defense means intercepted them and managed to shoot down one of them at 1445 today. It was seen crashing in flames inside Iranian territory. The other plane fled.

5. Our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy personnel opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing three and wounding others.

6. At 1130 today, two enemy fighter planes raided the residential areas in the suburbs of the (As-Siddiq) district in the Irbil Governorate. Our ground defenses intercepted them and forced them to flee. The enemy raid resulted in the demolition of one house and the damage of several civilian vehicles and establishments. Four more enemy aircrat tried to raid the residential areas in Qal'at Salih, (Al-'Uzayr), and Al-Majarr in the Maysan Governorate. Our air defense means intercepted them and our fighter planes chased them and forced them to flee without accomplishing their mission.

The criminal Khomeyniites also continued their shelling of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Ash-Shihabi, Zurbatiyah, and Halabjah with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of 7 civilians, injury to 37 others, the destruction of 6 houses, and damage to 6 civilian cars, 1 civilian hotel, and 1 secondary school in Basra. It also led to the destruction of five houses and damage to one civilian car in Mandali; the destruction of three houses in Khanaqin; the destruction of one house and damage to one car in Ash-Shihabi; and the martyrdom of one civilian and injury to another in Halabjah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 February 1984

No 1,385 — 25 February

JN251808 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,385 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God will throw back their mockery on them, and give them rope in their trespasses; so they will wander like blind ones to and fro. [Koranic verse]

With the determination of men who have faith in their sacred cause, who defend the soil of their homeland and their country's security as well as the glorious Arab nation's honor, our valiant Armed Forces continue to wage battles of victory, honor, and dignity against the rancorous enemy forces. They are dissipating the dreams of the criminal Khomeyniite clique, which is proceeding toward its certain death and inevitable end, God willing. The results of the activities are as follow:

1. At 0030 on the night of 24-25 February, the unjust enemy attacked our brave units on the right flank of our IV Army Corps. At 0940 this morning, the enemy attacked our units on the left flank of the same corps. Our brave units confronted the enemy's attempts and engaged its forces in fierce battles in which all types of weapons were used. Our forces completely wiped out the enemy units —except for those who escaped, pursued by fire from our units, or those who were taken prisoner. Known enemy losses are 1,970 dead and a great number of wounded and prisoners. Our forces also destroyed large quantities of enemy weapons and military hardware of various types, and captured a large amount of serviceable weapons. Known enemy losses in the right flank of the IV Army Corps and Chilat, in addition to what was reported in our previous communiques, amount to 1,579 dead —including Lieutenant (Murad Sulayma), a commander of one of the Khomeyni guards regiments from the 124th Brigade, and large numbers of wounded and prisoners.

2. Our valiant units in the III Army Corps' operational sector continued to deal deadly blows to the enemy's units and to inflict huge losses in life and equipment on them. We will provide you with details of these losses in future communiques. Known enemy losses in this sector, in addition to what was reported in our previous communiques, amount to 3,375 dead, large numbers of wounded, hundreds of prisoners. Also, six tanks and several personnel carriers, excavators, and military hardware were destroyed. A number of serviceable tanks, excavators, and personnel carriers that the enemy left behind after the battles in the past few days were moved to the rear.

3. Throughout today, the able aircraft of our Air Force continued their intensive and fierce raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations, as well as against important targets deep inside enemy territory in the II and IV Army Corps' sectors. They scored direct and very effective hits, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on the enemy units, and destroying two Chinook enemy helicopters in the right flank of the IV Army Corps sector. All of our aircraft returned safely to base, with the exception of one aircraft which crashed over enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of its pilot. Our fighter aircraft carried out 281 combat missions today.

4. Throughout the day today, the valiant helicopters belonging to the Army's Air Force attacked enemy troop concentrations and military hardware in the II and IV Army Corps operations sectors. They succeeded in killing or wounding large numbers of enemy troops, and destroying weapons and military hardware. Other formations of our able helicopters, splendidly backed by our [ground] units, destroyed the enemy units. Their blows were fierce and effective. Our daring helicopters also destroyed five enemy helicopters in the II Army Corps sector, three Cobras and two Bells. All of our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our helicopters carried out 91 combat missions today.

6. Several of the criminal enemy's planes raided several of our cities and civilian installations this morning as follows: at 0640 today, residential areas in Al-Miqdadiyah and the subdistricts of Abu Sayda and As-Sa'diyah; at 0745 today, residential areas in 'Aqrah; at 0755 model villages in (Baraluk) in Dahuk Province; at 1048, residential areas in 'Ali al-Gharbi, 'Ali ash-Sharqi and Qal'at Salih. Our air defense means confronted the enemy aircraft and shot down one plane, which was seen crashing in flames over Iranian territory in the area opposite Chilat. Another plane was hit in the northern area. The plane was seen flying toward Iranian territory in flames.

As a result of enemy raids, several civilians were wounded, including some children and women, as follows: 9 martyrs, 27 wounded, and 7 houses destroyed in Al-Miqdadiyah; 7 martyrs, 9 wounded, and 14 houses and 4 civilian cars damaged in Abu Saydah; 1 wounded and 26 houses damaged in As-Sa'diyah; 5 martyrs, 34 wounded, 6 houses destroyed, and 19 houses damaged in 'Aqrah; 3 martyrs, 30 wounded, 2 houses and 3 shops damaged in 'Ali ash-Sharqi; 10 wounded and 1 civilian car damaged in 'Al al-Gharbi; and 2 martyrs and 5 wounded in Qal'at Salih. The criminal Iranian rulers resumed their shelling of Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin today with heavy artillery. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling, three civilians were martyred, nine others were wounded, and two houses were destroyed in Basra; two were wounded, seven houses were destroyed, and one civilian car was damaged in Mandali; five were wounded, five houses were destroyed, and one elementary school, one civilian car, and several civilian installations and orchards were damaged in Khanaqin.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1984

No 1,386 — 26 February

JN261843 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,386 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 26 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. That we might give them a taste of the penalty of humiliation in this life; but the penalty of a hereafter will be more humiliating still: and they will find no help. [Koranic verse]

While heroically fighting the barbarous Iranian enemy in defense of honor, land, and sovereignty, and realizing further victories over the covetous aggressors, our valiant Armed Forces will continue to ride over the pinnacles of glory, heroism, and sacrifice, God willing. The results have been as follows:

1. The brave units of the III Army Corps continued to pound enemy units and remnants from their sector's positions. Fierce battles raged during which the enemy suffered great numbers of dead, wounded, and captured. Large quantities of enemy weapons, hardware, and equipment were destroyed. Known enemy losses that have been counted in addition to previously mentioned losses were 5,260 dead and a great number of wounded and captured soldiers. The enemy also lost 18 tanks, 8 excavators, 6 vehicles and graders, and large quantities of weapons, hardware, and equipment.

2. At 0515 today, an enemy force tried to attack one of our forward units in the Chilat area, within the operational area of the IV Army Corps sector. Our brave units confronted the enemy attempt. In a swift, decisive battle, the enemy attack was

defeated and the enemy was forced to flee after suffering a great number of casualties and losing a great amount of various weapons and equipment. It has been ascertained that yesterday the enemy lost 1,200 dead, and a great number of wounded in addition to the losses mentioned in our communique issued yesterday.

3. Using artillery our forward units pounded enemy positions opposite their positions in the central sector of the front. Our forces destroyed an enemy artillery battery, a number of hardware stockpiles, and two medium machine guns.

4. Our daring Air Force planes today carried out fierce strikes and crushing raids against enemy units and troop and vehicle assembly points in the sectors of the III and IV Army Corps. Our forces scored very effective and direct hits and inflicted on the enemy heavy losses in men, weapons, and equipment. Other formations of our fighter planes carried out concentrated attacks on an enemy army camp in Khaneh and on important military targets deep inside enemy territory. They scored effective hits. One of our fighter plane formations at 1702 today attacked two enemy helicopters of the Chinook type and destroyed one of them, which was seen falling in flames opposite our units in the right flank of the IV Army Corps. Another helicopter of the same type was also hit. All our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our planes carried out today 248 combat missions.

5. The daring pilots of our helicopter gunships today carried bold raids and forceful missions against enemy units and troop and vehicle assembly points in the sectors of the III and IV Army Corps. They scored direct hits and inflicted heavy losses on enemy men and equipment. Known enemy losses were the destruction of 19 vehicles and various trucks, 1 armored troop carrier, 2 boats, one 106-mm gun, and 3 troop assembly points and emplacements for weapons. All of our helicopters returned safely to base. Our helicopters today carried out 253 combat missions.

6. It has been ascertained that two enemy fighter planes have been shot down. The first was an F-5 and the second was an F-4. They were downed by our air defense means and ground defenses. The two enemy planes were raiding residential areas in Ba'qubah and 'Ali al-Gharbi on 15 and 17 February. They were shot down and fell inside Iranian territory.

7. The criminal Khomeyniites continued last night and today their shelling of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Ash-Shihabi, Sayyid Sadiq, and Chandri with heavy artillery. The result of the shelling follows: four civilians martyred, five others wounded, three houses destroyed, and four civilian cars damaged in Basra; one civilian martyred, six others wounded, four houses destroyed, and five houses and two cars damaged in Khanaqin; and five houses destroyed, and one school and one mosque damaged in Mandali. The shelling also damaged a number of civilian buildings and property in Ash-Shihabi, Sayyid Sadiq, and Chandri.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 Febraury 1984

King Fahd Phones President on War Situation

JN260843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Last night President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from his brother His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, inquiring about the situation at the battlefronts. The Saudi monarch emphasized Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian regime's aggression.

YAR President Phones Support to Saddam Husayn

JN261615 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call today from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, inquiring about the situation at the battlefronts. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih emphasized the YAR's support for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian regime's aggression.

UN Delegate on Shelling of Civilian Targets

JN250936 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] United Nations, 25 Feb (INA) — Dr Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraq's permanent UN delegate, has stressed the need for stationing international observers to monitor the shelling of civilian targets by both Iraq and Iran. In a press conference he held here last night, Al-Qaysi said Iraq will defend itself against any Iranian aggression with all the means available to it unless the Tehran rulers desist from shelling civilian targets.

Al-Qaysi referred to Iraq's acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 540, and to Iraq's decision on 14 February to observe a 1 week moratorium on striking civilian targets in Iran. He said that Iran is continuing to shell our civilian targets despite Iraq's readiness to stop the shelling operations. This, he added, shows the Iranian rulers' desire to continue the war.

Al-Qaysi referred to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's letter to the UN secretary general, which will be distributed as an official document, and said that the letter stressed Iraq's determination to defend its security and sovereignty and to preserve the lives of its citizens with all the means available to it. This is based on the principle of self- defense, which means crushing any Iranian attack. He said the aggressor must be punished and that the Iranian regime is held fully responsible for all the dire consequences that will arise from its aggression.

Radio Monte Carlo 24 February Report From Front

JN241919 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Hasan al-Kashif's dispatch from Basra]

[Text] I have just returned from a tour of the frontlines of the Iraqi II Army Corps sector. The situation is quiet with the exception of some artillery duels. In the Al-Muthanna forces' area, one of the commanders of the brigades that fought in the battle took me to the edge of the [word indistinct]. There I saw the soldiers collecting the weapons and equipment of the Iranian soldiers whose bodies covered the ground. The Iraqi soldiers then buried them in mass trenches. In front of the Iraqi positions, there is barbed wire in the prohibited zone where the Iranian vehicles are burned. I found the Iraqi soldiers' morale extremely high.

Before I toured the front, Basra was living in a spirit of victory. Military trucks carrying hundreds of POW's passed through Basra streets. The number of POW's is increasing. At noon we were received by Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid [commander of Iraq's III Army Corps] in one of the II Army Corps commands. He talked to us for more than an hour. I am reporting the main points in his remarks.

'Abd ar-Rashid said: The enemy will not be able to remain in 1 inch of our land or even in the prohibited zone. We are still counting the dead and evacuating the prisoners. Some of the enemy tanks fell in the trenches which we prepared in our defense lines. The corpses of the dead Iranians are now being consumed by the fish of the Hoveyzah marshes. Our helicopter gunships, storm troopers, Popular Army men, and sons of our peasant societies have wiped out all the Iranian forces that had infiltrated these marshes. We have hundreds of POW's in the area opposite the left flank of the II Army Corps. The situation last night and today is confined to sporadic engagements. We are continuing our operations to chase the groups which infiltrated the marsh region, to be exact, the Iranian side of these marshes.

The Iranian losses in tanks and personnel are very heavy. Our fire is chasing them in the direction of [word indistinct]. The commander said: The situation, at noon today, is stable except for the search and destroy operations in the marshes, and I assert— the Iranian side of the marshes.

'Abd ar-Rashid said: The stable situation does not mean that the battle has ended. [Battles] are still expected in an area that extends from the Shatt al-'Arab to the Hoveyzah marsh. This is greater than the [word indistinct] victory. My happiness about this victory is greater. The battle is a decisive battle and we hope that it will be the end of the war.

What about the attacking Iranian force? 'Abd ar-Rashid answered: They attacked us with the following forces: The 92d Armored Division; the Zahedi division, which is the remnant of the 88th Division; several infantry divisions such as the 77th Division, the 21st Division, which they brought from [word indistinct], and several infantry divisions which were originally brigades and have recently been transformed into divisions; and the 57th Commando Division. Iranian POW's report the participation of the 16th Armored Division in addition to units from the [word indistinct] guards, mobilization units, and other units with the numbers 7, 27, and 8. These units take the form of brigades and divisions and have religious names.

The Iranian forces which appeared in the form of human waves were wiped out before they arrived at our forward defensive positions.

On the number of the attacking Iranian forces, 'Abd ar-Rashid said: The number is very great. It was more than their previous concentrations. The Iranians say that they sent half a million fighters. We say there are hundreds of thousands. He added: We have no fear of numbers. We are confident of destroying any number of them. They wanted to reach the palm trees of Basra from the nearest point. Their arrival in Basra is more than impossible. The commander of the II Army Corps said: Yesterday, Iran announced that it lost nine of its great military commanders. I am certain that two of them were killed in the clashes. The rest were killed deep inside Iran. [words indistinct] from 2-5 km. Iran knows how they were killed.

I asked him about the extent, form, and timing of the Iraqi retaliation. He said: We are at the behest of the Iraqi Command. The Iraqi deterrent action will be no less than 10 times the size of that of any of their actions.

Has the battle ended? He said: We are behaving as if the battle is an open one. We are proceeding to realize our aims. We have armored divisions and formations which have not yet taken part in battle. They know that we have destroyed many large Iranian headquarters with our new missiles, planes, and artillery. Here the Iraqi commander's statement ends. Therefore, all military possibilities are there. However, the Iraqi side is behaving as one who has realized a great, decisive victory. This is Hasan al-Kashif reporting from east of Basra.

Army Positions Inside Iranian Borders Reported

JN242222 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Basra — Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd Ar-Rashid, commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps, has stated that his forces are stationed 7 km inside Iranian borders in many positions east of Basra. He added that the Iranian forces completely failed not only to occupy Iraqi lands, but also to restore an inch of the Iranian lands which Iraq is occupying temporarily.

Talking to the Baghdad correspondent of the Jordanian News Agency and to a group of Arab and foreign correspondents at his headquarters near Shatt al-'Arab on the Iraqi-Iranian border this evening, the commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps said that Iraq will continue its confrontation of the Iranian attacks with the aim of annihilating the attacking Iranian forces and completely destroying their weapons and vehicles, in implementation of Iraq's policy to end the war militarily and in its own way.

He emphasized that the Iraqi helicopter gunships carry out daily reconnaissance sorties over the entire border area, penetrating the Iranian airspace at an appropriate depth. He added that these helicopter gunships will continue their sorties over the Iranian territory in confirmation of the Iraqi forces' combat capability.

The PETRA correspondent in Baghdad saw scores of Iraqi helicopter gunships reconnoitering the Baghdad-Basra road and overflying Iranian territory.

The commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps said that Iran used more than seven regular divisions in the battles waged east of Basra the day before yesterday, in addition to huge units consisting of the Khomeyni guards and the volunteers who were misled in the name of liberating Jerusalem. However, he said, we managed to stop their foolish thrust in record speed and killed thousands of them after they had actually managed to reach some areas.

He announced that nine senior Iranian military commanders were killed in these battles, as admitted by Iran itself. He stressed that the Iraqi forces are waiting for the instructions of the political leadership in order to deal a decisive blow to the Iranian aggressors. He said: Our reply to Iran will this time be much stronger than they expect. The best example on this is what the Iraqi missiles did in Abadan and Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr].

Staff Maj Gen Mahir ar-Rashid did not rule out a new Iranian offensive and said: We are ready for any future confrontation, and we know how to reply to them. He disclosed that Iran used a number of Soviet-made tanks in its offensive east of Basra.

Baghdad TV Shows 'Hundreds' of Iranian POW's

JN242104 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — Baghdad television has screened a 15-minute film of several hundred Iranian POW's. Pain was evident on their faces after they were deceived by the Iranian regime and sent to the crematorium of a war from which they reaped only loss. Military vehicles sent for this purpose, carrying hundreds of POW's, roamed Basra streets.

Five Iranian Commanders Reportedly Killed

JN250432 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0405 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — It was announced here that five commanders of Iranian units have been killed. The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH*, citing its correspondent in the Chilat operational area, says that the five commanders were commanding the units which attacked the Ash-Shib sector in the IV Army Corps' front recently. It adds that the IV Army Corps' command has information confirming the death of these commanders. Moreover, it says, the Iranian POW's have confirmed their death. The paper indicates that these commanders are: the commander of the Abu Dharr regiment, the commander of the Khomeyni guards company at one axis, the commander of the 4th Khomeyni guards platoon, and the commander of the engineering units. [No fifth as received]

Iranian Planes Raid Iraqi Towns 25 Feb

JN250803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0742 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

At 0642 today, three criminal Iranian enemy fighter planes raided residential areas in the Al-Miqdadiyah district and the subdistricts of Abu Saydah and As-Sa'diyah in the Diyala Governorate.

At 0745 today, another Iranian fighter plane raided the city of 'Aqrah in the Nineveh Governorate and bombed the residential areas. Our air defense means intercepted the enemy aircraft and forced them to flee. The savage enemy raids inflicted sacrifices among civilians and losses in buildings and property as follows:

Al-Miqdadiyah: 9 martyrs; 27 wounded, including 10 children; and 7 houses destroyed.

Abu Saydah: 7 martyrs, 9 wounded, and 14 houses and 4 civilian cars damaged.

As-Sa'diyah: 1 child wounded and 26 houses damaged.

'Aqrah: 25 wounded and 5 houses damaged.

[Dated] 25 February 1984.

Two Iranian Attacks Defeated 25 February

JN251302 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1242 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Then they sought a strategem against him: but we made them the ones that lost the most. [Koranic verse]

O glorious Iraqis. O sons of our great Arab nation. O heroes of our valiant Armed Forces everywhere.

At 0030 after midnight on the night of 24-25 February, the unjust enemy attacked our brave units on the right flank of our IV Army Corps. At 0940 this morning, the enemy attacked our units on the left flank of the same Army Corps. Our brave units lay in wait for the enemy forces. They confronted the enemy's units of aggression.

Following a heroic battle, our forces were able to completely crush the enemy forces and to completely wipe out the attacking enemy units except for those who escaped certain death or preferred to surrender to our forces. Known enemy losses were 1,970 dead and great numbers of wounded and captured. Our forces destroyed great amounts of enemy hardware and equipment and captured a large number of serviceable weapons.

Thus, we affirm our ability to fight the rancorous enemy. We will crush and destroy all the aggressive adventures and attempts that are aimed against our land and shrines. Victory comes from God.

[Dated] 25 February 1984.

Baghdad Warns Iranian Border Residents To Leave

NC251302 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 1200 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpts] O children of Iran, O respectable people, O Iranian sisters and brothers:

The corpses of Iran's children are now being devoured by vultures. Who is responsible for these acts? How will Khamene'i and Rafsanjani justify their acts, which have led to the death of thousands? During his Friday sermon, Khamene'i was expected at least to ask for the forgiveness of the people who were killed. But this insane impostor number two started his babbling and spoke about imaginary victories that exist only in his sick mind. He once again threatened the Iraqi people. We remind Khamene'i and all the dubious characters that if they continue their impudence and tread the path of mischief and aggression, their fate will be nothing but destruction; and with every Iraqi city that is destroyed, dozens of Iranian cities and hundreds of Iranian villages will be destroyed in return. With our Air Force's spectacular superiority and our modern long-range missiles, we are capable of wiping Iranian cities off the map.

O Iranian sisters and brothers: Khomeyni's regime has started shelling our cities and villages. Therefore, we warn the residents of Iran's border cities to leave as soon as possible, because Iraq's artillery will be destructive and effective. The dubious rulers of Iran who are aligned to Zionism will be punished by the children of Iran and Iraq for their crimes, because it is impermissible for this insane clique which has trampled and is trampling on all values, traditions, and common laws to rule the destinies of the Iranian people.

If Khamene'i and Rafsanjani had the least bit of moral distinction, they would have watched the films aired by Iraqi television so that they could have seen what the Iraqis have done to their deceived forces, how aggressive forces have turned into rotting corpses and food for the vultures, and how Iraq's heroic forces have rendered the dreams of the aggressors futile once and for all.

Commander on Battle in Chilat 25 Feb

JN252031 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Maysan, 25 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi Armed Forces have crushed the aggressor Iranian units in the Chilat area of the IV Army Corps sector, completely destroying them and pursuing their retreating remnants inside Iranian territory.

The INA team in the area closely watched how the Iraqi forces are battering the enemy fortifications, and how they are transforming them into rubble and dismembered bodies.

The staff brigadier general who is commanding the Iraqi forces in the Chilat area told the INA team that the evil and rancorous enemy has massed large forces in the Chilat area in order to occuply this border area. He added that in a protracted battle today the valiant Iranian forces inflicted huge losses on the enemy and wiped out their forces and remnants, which fled leaving their weapons and a large number of their wounded behind. The commander added that his forces have taught the aggressor forces a harsh lesson and have silenced the enemy's sources of fire. The INA team saw the bodies of the dead and wounded Iranians, as well as the Iranian weapons littering the battlefield.

Baghdad Television Shows Iranian Losses 25 Feb

JN252118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — Baghdad television screened three films this evening on the losses in life and equipment the Iranian forces sustained in the battles east of Basra and east of Maysan at the hands of the Iraqi-forces' III and IV Army Corps.

For over 70 minutes, the films showed thousands of dead Iranians as well as enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and weapons littering the Iraqi areas that the aggressors tried to desecrate. The films also highlighted the strength of the Iraqi fortifications and defense lines, which the enemy forces found difficult to pentrate in the areas where the battles have raged. The film also highlighted the Iraqi forces' capability in confronting the Iranian invasion forces, and the Iraqi fighter's determination in defending his homeland.

INA Report Updates Military Situation 26 Feb

JN260750 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi forces are in control of the military situation in the areas east of Basra and Chilat, and are getting ready to confront any new Iranian offensive.

In the IV Army Corps' sector in the Chilat area — the Al-'Amarah sector — Iraqi soldiers today began burying thousands of Iranian dead and towing away destroyed as well as serviceable Iranian tanks and vehicles.

In the III Army Corps' sector east of Basra Iraqi forces have finished off the remaining Iranian soldiers who had earlier infiltrated the Hoveyzeh waters.

In the Chilat area, where the Iranian forces yesterday attacked the IV Army Corps' right and left flanks, the Iraqi forces, through heroic fighting succeeded in destroying the Iranian forces and foiling the two offensives within 6 hours.

The films screened on Baghdad television last night showed the magnitude of the losses inflicted on the Iranians. These films showed thousands of Iranian dead littering the battlefield opposite the forward edges of the Iraqi positions. They showed clearly that the water in the canals and lakes had turned red with the blood of the dead Iranians. A number of bodies were seen floating on the surface of the water.

One of the military commanders whose forces repulsed the two offensives said that part of the battles took place close by and that the Iraqi fighters had used all types of weapons. He added that yesterday's battles were coordinated among the various Iraqi corps and that the artillery, armor, and Air Force played an effective role in wiping out the attacking forces and settling the situation in our favor after killing 3,549 Iranian troops.

The Iraqi forces later evacuated scores of tired-looking, terrified Iranian prisoners and wounded to the rear.

A field commander described what took place in the IV Army Corps' sector as crazy mass suicide and mass genocide of the Iranian people's sons at the hands of their rulers.

As for the III Army Corps' sector east of Basra, our forces have already finished off the Iranians who infiltrated the Hoveyzeh marshes. The annihilation of these infiltrating pockets came after a military operation isolated them and prevented any contact with the Iranian side, thereby foiling the enemy plan to develop the tasks of these pockets which was to open a gap in the Iraqi defenses.

A local press correspondent emphasized that the Iraqi forces finished off the last infiltrators yesterday afternoon.

The Iranian infiltrators arrived at the Hoveyzeh marshes on Friday under cover of darkness and along paths through the undergrowth and fields of sugar cane in an attempt to reach dry land. They tried to climb the barrier surrounding the waters of the marshes, but the Iraqi forces besieged them and wiped them out.

Iraqi helicopter gunships took part in isolating the infiltrators by striking at their supply lines deep inside Iran. For the last 2 days smoke has been billowing from these Iranian positions.

The destruction of yesterday's two offensives against the IV Army Corps' sector makes a total of five major Iranian offensives destroyed within a week by the Iraqi forces, the largest being the one aimed against the III Army Corps' sector east of Basra. The other four offensives were aimed against the IV Army Corps' sector in the Ash-Shib and Chilat areas.

These offensives resulted in the death of about 12,000 Iranians and the wounding or capturing of a large number.

The Iraqi Air Force is playing an effective role in destroying the attacking forces. Its task is concentrating on destroying the Iranian supply lines deep inside the enemy territory. This Air Force, with its fighter planes and helicopter gunships, managed to confuse the Iranian forces' movement, obstruct their advance, and isolate their units from their headquarters in the rear. During the recent battles the Iraqi aircraft carried out 947 successful combat missions.

In an attempt to conceal its massive losses, the Iranian regime ordered its aircraft and heavy artillery to attack residential areas in various Iraqi towns. Yesterday's attacks resulted in the martyrdom of 29 persons, the wounding of 127, and the destruction of or damage to 86 houses, 7 cars, and 7 shops.

If the Tehran rulers have chosen this hostile attitude away from the battlefields in which they failed to achieve any success, the Iraqi reply to the bombardment of the border towns and villages will be so tough and strong that it will make them think several times before repeating such attacks.

The military situation in the various operational sectors, which are witnessing Iraqi confrontation of repeated Iranian attacks aimed at invading Iraq, confirms both decisively and practically the inevitability of a final Iranian defeat.

Statement on New Iranian Offensive 26 Feb

JN260826 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0808 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] We have just received the following. A military spokesman has stated:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them. [Koranic verse]

At 0515 today, a force of the rancorous Iranian enemy tried to attack one of our heroic units in the Chilat sector within the operational area of the IV Army Corps. Our valiant units confronted it and clashed with the enemy troops in a quick and decisive battle. Our brave forces managed to repulse the enemy offensive and force the aggressors to flee after inflicting on them a large number of dead or wounded and after the destruction of quantities of hardware, weapons, and various other equipment.

God is great, God is great, victory for great Iraq and its heroic Army; disgrace and ignominy for the charlatans ruling in Iran.

[Dated] 26 February 1984

III Army Corps Commander Congratulates President

JN261353 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Cable to President Saddam Husayn from commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps dated 26 February 1984]

[Text] To the pride of the Arabs and great Iraq, the great resolute President-leader Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, from Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps.

My great leader, the architect of our progress and glory: From the battlefield in the Hawr al-Huwayzah areas both on the land and in the marshes, we are directing a fierce battle with your determination, with faith in principles and values, with the spirit of Islam, and with the inspirations of our great grandfathers, the associates of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him.

The columns of our people's Armed Forces, and the supporting forces such as the Khalid forces and the special forces, are chasing the remnants of the collapsing insects of the Zoroastrians, and evacuating hundreds of frustrated prisoners. The other formations of the brave Al-Qadisiyah forces are preparing for battle in their positions all over the III Army Corps front.

We send you our congratulations. We congatulate our great people and dear homeland. Let the end of the war be at the hands of these determined soldiers. We will be true to our pledges to you, to the people, and to the homeland.

Long live the victorious leader, long live the great people, Success comes from God.

[Signed] Staff Major General, commander of the III Army Corps, 26 February 1984.

Spokesman on Downing of Iranian Helicopters

JN270923 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

And he sent against them flights of birds, striking them with stones of baked clay. [Koranic verse].

Five enemy helicopters this morning tried to approach our forward units in the III Army Corps operational sector. Our able fighter aircraft attacked them and pounced on them with direct and effective blows and at 0751, 0834, and 1100 this morning destroyed four enemy helicopters, including one of the Chinook type and another of the Bell type. The four destroyed enemy helicopters were seen crashing over the mentioned area while the fifth enemy plane [as heard] was hit. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our air defense means and ground defenses shot down an enemy fighter aircraft yesterday which exploded opposite our valiant units' positions east of Basra. The pilot was seen parachuting over enemy positions. 27 February 1984.

Kurdistan Council Ready To Confront Iran

JN251540 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — The legislative council in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has declared its absolute readiness to take up arms and immediately proceed to the confrontation lines against the Iranian regime's forces.

In a cable it addressed to President Saddam Husayn today, the council affirmed its readiness to fight alongside the brave Iraqi Army in order to break the back of the aggressors and bury all Iranian attempts to undermine great Iraq's sovereignty, honor, and dignity.

The council hailed the new victories achieved by the brave Iraqi Armed Forces against the Iranian regime's forces, stressing that these successes shall be added to the proud record of the brave Iraqi people.

Press Comments on Iran's Military Defeat

JN250840 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — The papers published here today say that the defeat of the Iranian aggressors in the recent battles was not merely a crushing military defeat, but also another example of their moral scandals. The papers assert that Iraq's heroes are standing with pride in all sectors of operations in anticipation of any new battle with the forces of the suspect Iranian regime.

In an article today, *ATH-THAWRAH says*: The continuation of the war has reinforced Iraq's capability to lash out and defeat the invaders, regardless of their concentrations, preparations, and their insistence on the war and aggression.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: In the second fierce battle east of Basra, the Iraqi Armed Forces were able to achieve a great, thundering, and decisive victory, and to inflict a crushing military defeat on the tyrant aggressors, destroying the offensive Iranian forces completely except for those who escaped or surrendered seeking rescue from inevitable death.

The Iraqi paper *ATH-THAWRAH* asserts that in this heroic, fierce, and distinguished battle, as in the previous fierce battles, Iraq's brave heroes embodied their combat efficiency and great capability to decide the battles quickly, scaring the aggressors and destroying their weak dreams of invading Iraq and desecrating its territory and holy places.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The military catastrophes which have been inflicted on Iran on the battle fronts since the beginning of the war have disclosed to the Iranian people what kind of destruction, damage, and ruin their rulers want to inflict on them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Before too long, the Iranian regime will find that it has added new defeat to its record which is full of defeats, and a new wound to Iran which is already suffering from too many wounds. The paper asserts that their defeat this time will be decisive and their wounds will be deadly.

AL-'IRAQ asserts that changing the military situation from ending a battle to ending a war makes us inflict great human losses on the forces of the Iranian regime which will prevent new Iranian concentrations from forming in the near future.

AL-'IRAQ says: Consequently, the enemy does not have any more surprises in this war, and we do not have any weak points at the military level or at the level of the Iraqi masses through which the enemy can penetrate. *AL-'IRAQ* concludes: Iran's rulers disregard human souls and ethical values and adhere to the aggressive and expansionist ambitions.

'Arafat Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement

JN261238 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today on a visit lasting several days during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials on the latest developments in the Arab situation and the Palestinian question.

Receiving 'Arafat upon his arrival were Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the prime minister; Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs; Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territory affairs; Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Hamid Abu Sittah, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members; Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser; Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman; the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army; and several PLO civilian and military officials.

Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, is accompanying 'Arafat on this visit.

In reply to a question by a PETRA-JNA correspondent on his visualization of Jordanian-Palestinian relations at the current stage in light of the recent meetings held by the Palestinian institutions, 'Arafat said: Our ties with Jordan stem from historical and fraternal relations as well as from the relations of the one family that link us. He added: We will not forget the good words we heard from His Majesty King Husayn during our presence in Tripoli when his majesty said: We are waiting for Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] so that we can meet with him and his brothers in order to continue the constructive dialogue between us in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation.

Replying to another question on his evaluation of the post- Tripoli stage and the way he views the PLO's position in light of the new Arab and international changes, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said: The plot to which the PLO was exposed in Tripoli has failed, praise be to God, and the PLO emerged from Tripoli stronger and more experienced. He stressed that the positive and successful results of the Islamic summit gave the best proof of these words.

Talks Begin 26 Feb

JN261851 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat began their talks at the Royal Hashemite Court this evning in order to reach a practical formula for a joint political move aimed at saving the land and the kinfolk. The first meeting was held under His Majesty King Husayn during which they reviewed current developments in the homeland and the events that led the region to the current situation.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of complete openness and frankness. Viewpoints were exchanged in a clear and precise manner to from bases for detailed discussions and to reach a definition of the clear bases on which the Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation will be established and on ways that will define the future march.

Attending on the Jordanian side were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir; Sulayman 'Arar, the deputy prime minister and interior minister; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; Information Minister Layla Sharaf; and Occupied Territories Minister Shawkat Mahmud.

Attending on the Palestinian side were Hamid Abu Sittah, Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Exective Committee members; Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser; and 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan.

The talks are still going on. The two sides will continue their initial talks during a working dinner to be given by His Majesty King Husayn in An-Nadwah Palace.

Radio Monte Carlo Report

JN261950 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today for talks with King Husayn. 'Arafat asserted that his talks with the king will deal with the Middle East situation, particularly the Palestinian problem, and Jordanian-Palestinian relations. 'Arafat recalled the historic ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and said that he was touched by King Husayn's statement during the seige of the Palestinian fighters in Tripoli, Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources in Jerusalem said that dozens of Palestinian personages in the occupied territories, who are close to Jordan, are working on a memorandum to be sent to Husayn and 'Arafat calling on them to coordinate their efforts to reach a political solution for the Palestinian problem before it is too late, particularly in light of the intensifying Jewish settlement campaign in the occupied territory.

King Husayn and 'Arafat began a closed meeting 1 hour ago. Our correspondent in Amman, Fu'ad Na'im, sheds light on the dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks in light of the current developments:

[Begin Na'im recording] A short while ago, talks between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides began in Amman under King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. This is the first meeting on this level since the break in the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue that was held last April. Observers believe that the following four points show the dimensions and define the limits of the new Jordanian dialogue:

1. Unlike the previous dialogue, this dialogue will not discuss President Ronald Reagan's plan and how to deal with it because this plan is frozen at the moment and also because of the U.S. presidential election and the setbacks for White House credibility in the Middle East after it failed to handle the Lebanese crisis.

2. The talks will deal with the fate of the Palestinians of the occupied territories, particularly the inhabitants of the Palestinian camps in the West Bank, and especially since Israel has started implementing measures with the aim of transferring and dispersing these camps in order to force their inhabitants to emigrate. The talks will also deal with the fate of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, who number about 400,000. King Husayn had said in a previous speech that the fate of these Palestinians will be on the agenda of his meeting with 'Arafat.

3. The two sides will explore the possibility of formulating a new Jordanian-Palestinian initiative that would be presented to an Arab summit so that Arab heads of state can sponsor it before it is presented to the world probably next year.

4. On Jordanian-PLO relations, informed sources say that these relations continue to be ruled by the joint working paper which the two sides prepared in 1979. This paper prevents an armed fedayeen presence in Jordan as well as fedayeen attacks from Jordanian territory. This paper also prevents the PLO from carrying out any political activities inside the Palestinian camps in Jordan. [end recording]

PLO Source Previews Talks

JN260959 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Feb 84 pp 1, 20

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, will arrive in Amman today on a visit to Jordan that will last for several days. During the visit 'Arafat will discuss with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials a joint plan of action, especially in the European arena.

Yesterday there were a number of side meetings between the Palestinian delegation which had arrived in Jordan the day before yesterday and senior Jordanian officials. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, the PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan, to discuss arrangements for 'Arafat's visit.

The Palestinian side to the Jordanian-Palestinian talks yesterday held a meeting attended by the PLO Executive Committee members Hamid Abu Sittih, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, and Dr Hanna Nasir as well as Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser; and Brig Gen 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya. This meeting was held to prepare for the Jordanian-Palestinian talks which will begin after 'Arafat's arrival in Amman.

A responsible Palestinian source said that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will concentrate on future Jordanian-Palestinian relations. They will also discuss political matters pertaining to the Middle East in general and to the Palestinian cause in particular. There will be a general review of the current political situation and the future moves of both sides.

The source added that King Husayn and 'Arafat are expected to exchange information about their latest moves on the Arab and international arenas, especially his majesty's visit to the United States and his meeting with President Reagan and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as well as 'Arafat's tour of a number of Arab and African capitals.

The same source explained that the talks will deal with the events on the Palestinian arena in light of recent developments.

On the subject of Khalil al-Wazir's remarks on Jordanian-Palestinian joint moves toward the Soviet Union, the source described the Soviet stand on the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue as positive, a fact that was indicated in a previous Soviet-Palestinian communique.

The Palestinian source said that after his visit to Jordan, 'Arafat is expected to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in response to an invitation from the new Soviet leadership which, during Andropov's funeral, received 'Arafat as a head of state. During this visit 'Arafat met with a high-level delegation which included CPSU Central Committee members.

According to informed Palestinian sources, while attending Andropov's funeral, 'Arafat also met with Cuban President Fidel Castro, who informed him of Cuba's support for 'Arafat's Palestinian, Arab, and international policy.

The source added that 'Arafat had received an invitation to visit Poland, which stresses the socialist bloc's stand in support of Palestinian legitimacy.

JORDAN TIMES 26 Feb Editorial

JN260851 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Breaking The Stalemate"]

[Text] Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, which is due to start most probably today, should open a new chapter in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. It should also provide for a new lead in Middle Eastern events, despite the somewhat gloomy backdrop against which it is taking place.

Palestinian officials have been cautioning against expectations of breakthroughs and instant declarations to follow the PLO chairman's talks with His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian government here this week. "We think this is a year of political stalemate as far as efforts to solve the Palestinian problem are concerned," said Khalil al-Wazir, Mr. 'Arafat's senior aide, yesterday, apparently alluding to the difficult tasks facing both Jordan and the PLO vis-a-vis the peace process under the present circumstances. Jordan, for its part, has not said that a breakthrough is imminent either, given the absence of the right conditions for peace in the Middle East; but the Kingdom has been insisting on exploring every avenue open for a lasting and honourable settlement in the area.

Of course there would be more hope of reaching more quickly a working agreement between the Jordanian-Palestinian [sides] that would get things going on the regional and international fronts, had it not been for that set of difficult conditions on the ground here and elsewhere in world capitals. But that does not mean Jordan and the PLO can affored to sit back and watch until all obstacles are removed in the way of a joint movement towards regaining the occupied territories and restoring Palestinian rights.

These two views are likely to be the main theme of discussions in the coming few days, and any joint strategy would have to be mapped according to the results. Nevertheless, the mere fact that the talks will be taking place indicates the willingness of both sides to cement their brotherly relations and devise a joint position on the challenges facing them.

Basically, we are hoping for a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative that will break the present stalemate over the Palestinian problem, rather than shy away from the effort because it might be difficult and not much could be gotten out of it. This initiative need not be based on any particular plan or proposal, but should include all the positive elements that constitute the right framework for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian march towards our goals. Getting our act together should naturally be the first step in that direction.

AR-RA'Y on Palestinian Dialogue

JN261041 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "So That the Issue Is Not Frozen," *AR-RA'Y* says: The Arab citizen has the right to feel concerned while observing the accumulation of events which could freeze the Palestinian question and change it into a secondary affair on the list of international priorities. It is no secret that the U.S. bias toward Israel, the flaccid Arab reality, the bloody events in the Lebanese arena, and the world's preoccupation with the Iraqi-Iranian war are some of the principal elements that are helping to freeze the Palestinian question. It is also no secret that it has become necessary to stop this freeze quickly and without delay.

In light of this, it is important to produce a joint Jordanian-Palestinian concept for activating the issue and keeping it on the list of international priorities. Moreover, this framework must be accompanied by joint action. Needless to say, those who have experienced the issue together and shared the common harm should initiate a breakthrough of the threatening stalemate. They must also carry the burden of moving the issue. This is the great responsibility that Jordan and the PLO must assume. This is why the awaited negotiations between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat — when the Palestinian leader arrives in Amman — are important.

AR-RA'Y adds: Jordan has asserted more than once, especially through the government policy statement which received a vote of confidence from Parliament, that this country does not view the Palestinian question as a political card to be used or as a humanitarian issue to be sympathized with and supported. Jordan considers the issue its basic fateful cause, on whose future it builds its existence, stability, and security. This is why Jordan, which is tied to the Palestinian cause, will remain true to its commitment by standing on the side of the Palestinian people until the occupation is removed. This is also why it will work in concert with the PLO to activate the issue.

AR-RA'Y concludes: Jordan realizes very well the importance of the time factor and that defending the Palestinian cause is an urgent duty and one of the main responsibilities of our generation. Jordan will forge its way ahead in carrying out its mission whatever the negligent say.

Jordanian-Palestinian Action Urged

JN270821 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Responsibility of Joint Confrontation" *AR-RA'Y* says: It is difficult to describe the arrival of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Amman and his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials as a new beginning. It is more a continuation of the talks that were suspended 10 months ago. During this period, contacts between Jordan and the PLO continued as well as exchanges of views.

If some are talking about the distinctiveness of Jordanian- Palestinian relations or about the two peoples' unity and its unique and deep characteristics, we, the Jordanians and Palestinians, are utilizing this distinctiveness and these characteristics under the umbrella of mutual hopes and suffering and common aspirations and objectives. The Zionist threat to the Arab character of the occupied territories and to the identity of their inhabitants affects to the same degree all that is Jordanian and Palestinian in terms of dangers and catastrophes.

AR-RA'Y adds: From this premise, a number of facts that must constitute the framework for the continuation of the discussions between Jordan and the PLO should be stressed. These facts have been the framework of Jordanian moves and trends since the Zionist occupation. The importance of these facts has been stressed with the escalation of the Zionist settlement program.

Concrete steps and not merely clarity of vision are what are urgently required at this stage. Jordan and the PLO are the Arabs who are the most aware of the dangers of the Zionist plan and the extent of the enemy's exploitation of the time factor. They also realize the weakness of Arab opposition in facing the settlement and Judaization plans.

AR-RA'Y says: The historical parternship, deepened by mutual pain, suffering, and threats, necessitates that this be a parternership in action. Jordan is not seeking a mandate from the PLO and will not agree to become a substitute for it. It continues to adhere faithfully to its principle of recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

King Telephones Saddam Husayn on War Situation

JN241306 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last night to be reassured about the situation at the Iraqi front. President Saddam Husayn assured his majesty that the Iraqi forces achieved an important triumph over the Iranian forces yesterday and were able to crush the aggression.

His Majesty King Husayn praised, on his behalf and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government, Iraq's courage and the Iraqi Army's great ability in confronting and destroying the aggression and achieving victory. President Saddam Husayn thanked his majesty the king for the fraternal and pan-Arab stands, praising Jordan's genuine Arab stand at the side of fraternal Iraq.

King Receives Junblatt, Hani al-Hasan, Others

JN251657 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 25 feb (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received Mahmud Riyad, former Arab League secretary general; 'Abd al-Majid Farid, head of the Arab Studies Center in Lonon; Subhi Kahhalah, former Syrian minister of agriculture; and Ahmad Baha' ad-Din, a prominent Egyptian Journalist, at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan was present. They are currently participating in the international symposium on Israel and Arab waters which His Highness Crown Prince Hasan opened in Amman this morning. The symposium is being chaired and organized by the Arab Studies Center in London in cooperation with Yarmuk University.

His Majesty King Husayn also received Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon. Earlier, his majesty also received Hani al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser.

Turkey To Look After Jordan's Libyan Interests

JN250933 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* has learned that the Turkish Embassy in Tripoli is expected to look after Jordan's interests in Libya. It was also learned that the government will limit the number of workers in the Libyan interests section who are allowed to remain in Jordan.

Al-Fayiz, EC Official Exchange Speeches

JN241134 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — 'Akif al-Fayiz, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has asserted that the Palestine cause is the basic issue in the Middle East conflict and that Israel's disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and its disregard for both UN reselutions and world public opinion are the main obstacle to all efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In an speech at the banquet he held last night in honor of Rieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament, Al-Fayiz added that the Palestine cause is Jordan's foremost interest, primarily because part of Jordan fell under brute occupation in 1967 but also because of the fraternal ties with the Palestinian people and Jordan's belief in the need for these people to regain their legitimate rights. He added that the people in the occupied homeland are suffering from injustice and tyranny. Israel confiscates land and displaces people without any consideration for UN resolutions.

He said that Jordan has always called, in all international circles and on all levels, for a peaceful and just solution that will guarantee peace in the region. After the failure of all initiatives, Jordan urged the EC to assume its responsibilities and role in achieving peace so that the region is not left at the mercy of the two superpowers and so that the region will not be a victim of their conflict.

The EC must not forget about the Iraqi-Iranian war and security of the Gulf. The European countries must not remain observers of this war. Iran still insists on aggression and on the war, while Iraq has responded to all appeals for peace.

Al-Fayiz said that Europe has historic contacts as well as political, economic, and cultural interests with the Arab people. He called on the European Parliament, as the representative of the European people, to urge European governments to seriously intervene in order to achieve just peace in this region, because this will serve world peace.

In a reply speech, Dankert expressed his appreciation and thanks for His Majesty King Husayn's invitation and his appreciation of the return of parliamentary life to Jordan. He said that the Middle East issue and achieving a just solution in the region is one of Europe's top priorities and that Europe's view of the Middle East has changed. He expressed confidence that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks will have positive repercussions on the status of the West Bank.

Dankert added that Europe views the Iraqi-Iranian war and ways to end it seriously. Europe will also assume a more effective role in solving the Lebanese problem.

Those attending the evening banquet were: the prime minister, the president of the Senate, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the deputy prime minister and minister of interior, the minister of the court, the foreign minister, members of Par liament, the EEC ambassadors in Amman, the Jordanian ambassador in Belgium, the EEC representative in Amman, and the secretary general of Parliament.

Dankert Departs 24 Feb

JN241624 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Rieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament, left Amman today following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan. He also held talks with the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the foreign minister, and the information minister on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis, especially the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and Arab-European relations.

Dankert was seen off at the airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian ambassador in Brussels, the French ambassador in Amman, the EC representative in Amman, and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

AR-RA'Y: Jordan Establishes Relations With Ireland

JN261247 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman, *AR-RA'Y* — A royal decree has been issued approving the establishemtn of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Ireland with a nonresident representation.

Beirut Radio on Completion of Marine Withdrawal

NC261426 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The U.S. Marines completed the final stage of their withdrawal to the U.S. ships anchored off the Lebanese shore at 1240. An amphibious unit consisting of 10 armored cars was the last group to leave land. The unit's installations were immediately taken over by Lebanese Army units. Less than 30 minutes before the withdrawal was effected, the battleship *New Jersey* bombarded the mountain area, as was confirmed by the 6th Brigade. The bombardment came to a halt at around 1500.

VOL: Amal Occupies Installations

NC261910 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1815 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] According to AFP, gunmen attached to the Muslim Shi'ite Amal organization occupied the Marine installations at the Beirut International Airport. Also according to AFP, an M-113 tank [as heard] hoisting a poster of Imam Musa as-Sadr took a position in front of the Marine installations. One of the gunmen was quoted as saying that it was according to instructions from Nabih Birri himself to secure the area around and in the Beirut airport.

Cease-Fire, Saudi Mediation Efforts Reported

NC250736 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Why did the situation deteriorate yesterday despite the announcement of a cease-fire? Actually, this cease-fire announcement was not communicated to any of the parties yesterday, including the Amal Movement and the National Salvation Party, although they declared in advance that they would abide by it if the other side does.

After it became known that the parties concerned did not know of a cease-fire agreement, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who is currently in Riyadh, held intensive contacts with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Mufti of Lebanon Shaykh Hasan Khalid, and former Minister Marwan Hamadah, who remained in constant touch with Amal leader Nabih Birri to discuss the latest security and political developments. He also contacted Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus. It is understood that Al-Hariri has been informed by the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal Movement that they would abide by the cease-fire and that they would prefer that the time for its implementation be confirmed so as not to jeopardize the lives of the citizens. The Saudi mediator also informed them that local contacts would take place later on to reach agreement on a cease-fire.

Hamadah was informed by Al-Hariri that an agreement is imminent. Riyadh has received answers from Beirut and Damascus that a comprehensive agreement will be announced within the next 2 days. It will include assurance for the consolidation of the cease-fire and the need for its observance by all parties.

Informed sources refused to divulge the details of the proposals. They affirmed that the question of the cease-fire has been decided and that the other articles, which should follow, will be announced within 2 days after completion of the discussion among the parties concerned.

The sources pointed out that Al-Hariri carried to Riyadh answers from Beirut and Damascus to many questions and that progress in the current efforts has been achieved. However, the sources refused to divulge details in order to ensure the success of these efforts.

Al-Jumayyil Briefed on Damascus Negotiations 24 Feb

NC242120 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] President al-Jumayyil this evening contacted Moroccan King Hassan II and discussed the current Lebanese situation. Official sources said President al-Jumayyil thanked King Hassan for the statement he made to *LE FIGARO* in which he said President al-Jumayyil's resignation would be a loss.

President al-Jumayyil this evening was contacted by Riyadh and briefed on the discussions that had taken place in Damascus. This contact was followed by a series of contacts between Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri.

It was learned that efforts now focus on the need for the implementation of the cease-fire because that would allow for the continuation of political discussions and the crystallization of the proposed solutions.

Contacts With Envoys on Draft UNSC Resolution

NC251310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Reports say that a draft Lebanese resolution has been worked out and will be submitted to the UN Security Council. The draft resolution was formulated during a meeting between Foreign Minister Salim and Fu'ad at-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general. The draft was approved by President al-Jumayyil.

It has been decided that At-Turk will summon the ambassadors of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council to inform them about it. Voting on this draft resolution will not take place until contacts on it are completed. Indeed, At-Turk today informed the British ambassador to Lebanon, the Chinese charge d'affaires, and the U.S. Embassy first secretary of the text of the draft Lebanese resolution, which calls for an immediate cease-fire and the replacement of the Multinational Force with UN Forces. At-Turk conveyed this draft resolution to the French ambassador with whom he met last night. He also conveyed it to the Soviet ambassador by phone.

The Lebanese draft resolution calls for UN forces to deploy in all Lebanese territory to monitor the cease-fire, protect the civilian population, and restore peace to Lebanon so as to main tain its unity, sovereignty, and independence. The resolution also calls on the UN secretary general to take the necessary measures as soon as possible in consultations and coordination with the Lebanese Government to implement this resolution.

As for the nations which will participate in the force, Lebanon — according to the draft resolution — calls for those states to be included that contribute to UNIFIL and the nonpermanent member states of the Security Council.

Salim Denies Reported Draft

NC252225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2212 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim denied that Lebanon has drawn up a draft resolution to be considered at the UN Security Council for the deployment of UN emergency forces in all Lebanese territory. Salim said that the truth is that a French draft resolution is now being presented to the Security Council and that there are Lebanese ideas on this draft resolution.

Foreign Minister Asks Cheysson To Contact USSR

NC262104 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today contacted Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations. They discussed the consultations held at the Security Council. Minister Salim asked his French counterpart to hold contacts with the Soviet Union following the Soviet request for amendments to the French draft resolution. These amendments would limit the effectiveness of the UN forces in Lebanon and confine their role, depriving them of their fourth capacity [sifatiha ar-rabi'ah].

Minister Cheysson promised Minister Salim he would hold these contacts tonight. He said that Ferdinand Wibaux, France's ambassador to Lebanon, will convey the results of these contacts to Minister Salim tonight.

Al-Hariri Discusses Situation With Salim 26 Feb

NC261920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim was contacted tonight by Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri. They discussed current Lebanese affairs. It was understood that Al-Hariri will arrive in Beirut tomorrow to reveal the outcome of the consultations being conducted by the Saudi working team, led by Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, with ranking Syrian officials.

Minister Salim earlier today contacted Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations. Fakhuri acquainted the minister with the progress of the ongoing negotiations at the Security Council.

Al-Wazzan Calls for Early Formation of Cabinet

NC251323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] During his contacts with political leaders today, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan emphasized the need to form a new cabinet as soon as possible to shoulder the full responsibility in this difficult time through which the country is passing. Prime Minister al-Wazzan affirmed that he does not want to continue heading a care-taker government for long.

AN-NAHAR Says Al-Jumayyil To Abrogate Accord

NC271130 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 27 (AFP) — Saudi Mediator Rafiq Al-Hariri was to resume talks with Lebanese leaders early this week on ways to abrogate Lebanon's troop withdrawal accord with Israel as fighting continued to rage in the Beirut region. Mr. al-Hariri was due here today but was postponed his trip one day, official Lebanese sources announced.

Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil, despite threats of desertion last week by his staunchest Christian allies, has chosen to rescind the May 17 pact, according to the independent newspaper *AN-NAHAR*. Citing government and opposition sources, *AN-NAHAR* said Mr al-Jumayyil had opted for a Saudi-backed plan which calls for abrogation of the accord. But in return, he has asked for a substitute formula providing for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, accordingto well-informed sources.

The same sources said a Syrian-Lebanese summit was likely to follow any announcement by Lebanon that the May 17 agreement had been revoked.

Birri Calls for Abrogation of 17 May Agreement

NC261255 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri has declared his readiness for any dialogue that first of all will determine who is responsibility for what happened in the southern suburb of Beirut and the mountain and, second, will cancel the 17 May agreement and uproot political sectarianism. Birri was speaking at noon today in an expanded meeting, held at the Carlton Hotel in Beirut, which was attended by active ideological and finance circles of the Shi'ite community. The meeting was held at the invitation of the Permanent Committee for Support of the Amal Movement. The meeting was attended by about 400 personalities.

Birri delivered a long speech in which he dealt with all current issues. In his speech he focused on the situation in the south, stressing that the Amal Movement was established to liberate the south because Imam Musa as-Sadr anticipated events when he affirmed that Israel had ambitions in southern Lebanon and he did not want that people of the south become refugees. Birri added that Amal was not established to fight in Beirut, or the southern suburb, or against anyone other than Israel. The problem is that Israel has captured the minds before the land and thus has created division. It was necessary for us to confront it everywhere.

Referring to the 17 May agreement, he said that this agreement was stillborn. It was killed by the Lebanese national resistance in the south.

Referring to the issue of the army, he affirmed his rejection of a Shi'ite, Sunni, or Druze army. He affirmed that the army which we want is an army for all Lebanon.

Birri said that all resources must be mobilized for the south, not from a regional angle, but because the south is the sick one and isolated from the homeland at this time. Israel, he added, is asking for guarantees for its security from the southerners. The wolf is today asking for protection from the lamb after this lamb has turned into a tiger that frightens Israel. If Israel insists on staying in the south, there will be no security for Galilee.

Birri Confers With Johnny 'Abduh 26 Feb

NC261935 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Nabih Birri received this evening Lebanon's Ambassador to Switzerland Johnny 'Abduh. During the meeting, attended by Colonel 'Akil Haydar, head of the Amal Political Bureau, discussions dealt with mediation efforts and proposals for projected solutions.

Amal Leader Meets Newsmen 24 February

NC241427 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Feb 84

["Highlights" of news conference held by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri on 24 February — recorded]

[Text] [Birri] Israeli forces deployed 50 armored cars in an attempt to storm Ma'rakah township in the Tyre District this morning. Two days ago these forces arrested brother struggler Muhammad Sa'd, the deputy official in charge of organization for the Amal Movement in the town. It was natural that the township's inhabitants would resist the Israelis' entry into their township.

The occupation forces then sought the aid of helicopters and columns of tanks. They surrounded the township and shelled it. They stormed and destroyed it and tortured the innocent inhabitants. Amal Movement youth and the inhabitants resisted with stones and sticks. Three persons were martyred and 23 others were wounded, many critically.

Houses and quarters were destroyed in an area under the control of UN emergency forces. These forces tried to enter the township to extend help and medical service. However, the Israelis prevented them from doing so. Clashes and resistance are continuing in townships in Tyre District and in the city of Tyre itself.

This barbarian foot [al-qadam al-barbariyah], which is not satisfied with killing ulema, desecrating mosques and places of worship, and arresting strugglers, has gone beyond all that to destroy houses of poor and innocent people, storm villages, disgrace areas controlled by UN emergency forces, and openly defy the world community and the United Nations. All this places us at a new juncture in resisting the occupation. The people of the south will not rest, regardless of the price, until the Israeli occupiers depart from their territory.

Time has proved that the agreements concluded with the government as an excuse for the continued presence of Israel or its shadow in southern Lebanon were futile. We convey greetings of admiration to our people in Ma'rakah township, Tyre city, Tyre District, and the south in general. We sent cables today to the states participating in the UN peacekeeping force in the south. We have also held contacts with the ambassadors of the great powers, demanding immediate intervention by their governments to exert pressure on Israel and prevent it from indulging in these mass massacres. We also demanded that Israel release Brother Muhammad Sa'd, member of the southern district command, and leave Ma'rakah township alone. If these contacts fail, we warn Israel that the entire south will turn into a battlefield and Ma'rakah will not be left alone to confront the forces of oppression and tyranny.

[Unidentified reporter] Were there any contacts with you regarding the cease-fire?

[Birri] Is there a cease-fire?

[Reporter] [Indistinct question]

[Birri] If there is a cease-fire, why was the suburb (?ablaze) all night?

[Reporter] The cease-fire was supposed to come into effect at 1100 today.

[Birri] There have been no contacts. What is being said is merely to cover the government's usual procrastination. This government's orders are very clear, and they provide for shelling West Beirut and the southern suburb in order to claim more innocent people every day. These intentions became clearer when they tried to foil the security plan, which was very successfully implemented yesterday. They went so far as to shell the Henry Shihab Barracks, a military gathering place, with eight salvos. The intentions became even more evident when demands were made today to establish cantons and confederations.

Briefly, the formal government is trying hard to terminate the legitimacy of institutions in Lebanon and the real legitimacy in Lebanon. The government either turns the Army into a stick in its hands against the Lebanese or tries to disintegrate the Army. It has asked this kind of action from more than one national barracks in various parts of Lebanon. The government is much offended to see West Beirut or any other area in Lebanon under the control of the nationalist forces and the national legitimacy that truly represents the people.

I held contacts in this respect today. I demand the Directorate of the Internal Security Forces and the Directorate of Public Security prepare the men and cadres necessary to reopen posts of the Internal Security Forces in various parts of the southern suburb. I demanded the Public Security set up a center in the suburb and another in West Beirut to complete passports and other formalities.

Censorship should be imposed on the Phalangist radio and Monte Carlo correspondents in Lebanon only. This censorship should absolutely not involve the various nationalist areas.

Sham'un Urges Al-Jumayyil Not To Abrogate Pact

NC261303 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The Phalange Political Bureau held a meeting at 1100 today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. It has been learned that the meeting dealt with all the plans proposed on Lebanon. The bureau found that these plans as not constituting a radical and final solution to the Lebanese tragedy. The bureau called on the Lebanese Government to resume negotiations and hold other rounds of talks before making a final decision. The government must obtain additional basic guarantees because what counts is not to accept Arab or other plans, but to accept a plan that will end the war in Lebanon. The Phalange Political Bureau has left the meetings open.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil briefed the conferees on the talks he and [former] President Camille Sham'un held with President Amin al-Jumayyil yesterday.

In a statement to Radio Free Lebanon at noon today, Sham'un said that during his meeting with President al-Jumayyil last night he emphasized that he is opposed to abrogating the 17 May agreement, particularly if this abrogation is without a quid pro quo from the Syrian side. He said that this quid pro quo must be full Syrian withdrawal from all Lebanese territory. Sham'un said that Syria must give guaranteed pledges for the withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, initially from the areas adjacent to Zahlah and Duhur ash-Shuwayr as a prelude to full withdrawal from everywhere in Lebanon. Without this, abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is not negotiable.

Sham'un added: What we are asking is full Syrian withdrawal from Lebanese territory so that we can discuss the fate of the agreement. I believe, he said, our stand is not far from President al-Jumayyil's. Anyway, the government must not rush to make a decision on the agreement because there is no reason for hurry.

Asked about the Syrian shelling of Christian residential areas, Sham'un said: It is time we recognized the Syrian intention, because the Syrians and their supporters, who represent the evil elements in Lebanon, believe that we will weaken as a result of the shelling of Christian areas. As a matter of fact, this shelling will enhance our steadfastness and firmness as well as solidify our conviction of our stands. Thus, there is absolutely no justification for this shelling.

I also cannot find any justification for the Christians' fear about their fate from now on, because the Christians who have fought fiercely and firmly since 1975 will not find it difficult to fight another year or a little more. Thus, I tell the Lebanese we must not surrender because those who surrender always lose. We must remain steadfast in the complete sense of the word no matter how long the crisis will continue. Our stand in the Lebanese Front is the same regarding the current developments. We explained this stand clearly to President al-Jumayyil.

Phalange Political Bureau Supports Al-Jumayyil

NC261306 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The Phalange Party Political Bureau has emphasized its confidence in the president of the republic and has decided to support him in any course he takes so that he can shoulder the responsibility under these historic circumstances. The Political Bureau held an exceptional meeting at 1100 today in the Phalange Party central headquarters under the chairmanship of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. During the meeting, the bureau reviewed the political and security situation in light of current reports and international, regional, and local factors. The bureau believes that every option has advantages and disadvantages but that the president of the republic can select his option because he possesses potentials that are not available to others.

At a lengthy meeting last night, President Amin al-Jumayyil, [former] President Camille Sham'un, and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil evaluated the results of the current developments. It was reported that there was full agreement on all views and on the issues that prompted the holding of the meeting.

Hamadah Reaffirms Amal, PSP Cease-Fire Commitment

NC251322 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] After a series of telephone contacts this morning involving Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party Leader, in Amman, and Saudi Mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who is now in Riyadh, former Minister Marwan Hamadah stated that the cease-fire decision scheduled to take effect at 0100 has been violated several times in more than one area. He added: Despite this, and in complete coordination with our allies, foremost of which the Amal Movement, we reaffirm our abidance by the cease-fire.

Further on Hamadah Statement

NC251920 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Following contacts with the Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who is now in Riyadh, former Minister Marwan Hamadah said: On all occasions we only exersised our right to self-defense when our people in West Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain were subjected to bestial shelling.

He pointed out that the cease-fire decision, set for 0100, was violated several times in more than one area by the other party. He said: We hope that in the next 2 days we will be able to take a position that is in line with Lebanon's interest and the security of the Lebanese people. He added: Anyway, we are awaiting more details on the plans currently being discussed.

Amal-PSP Meeting

NC252036 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] A meeting was held at 1900 today between the Amal Movement and Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leaderships in the presence of Nabih Birri, former Ministers Narwaran Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, and other military officials in Nabih Birri's home. During the meeting, the conferees discussed the violation of the cease-fire and the indiscriminate shelling by the Phalangist militiamen and the Army units associated with them. The conferees consider this violation to be a serious deviation from the agreement reached through joint Saudi-Syrian efforts. They also discussed the latest political developments in light of the contacts they held today with PSP leader Walid Junblatt.

PSP Radio: Regime's Maneuvers 'Doomed to Failure'

NC241939 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Phalangist regime's maneuvers over the cease-fire and over the Saudi and Arab efforts were exposed quicker than expected. This is the prevailing view of circles familiar with the consultations held during Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri's presence in Beirut and with the talks held by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz with Syrian officials, as well as with Prince Bandar's consultations in Damascus.

In fact, as soon as the shah of B'abda's circles received Prince Bandar's announcement about the cease-fire as of 1100 today, they started to disseminate rumors that the fascist authority and its suicidal plan were received with satisfaction. These circles reiterated yesterday that a decisive decision will be made by the shah of B'abda soon. However, no such decision was made. Those concerned with the negotiations were surprised to see that Amin al-Jumayyil made no tangible proposals and no commitment in respect to abrogation of the 17 May agreement in order to convince those who are hoping for a change in the fascist factional regime's policy.

The pressures and one-upmanship by Fadi Afram, head of the Phalangist gang's militias, and by Camille Sham'un were followed by the president of the Phalangist regime's statement that some people are not allowing him to abrogate the 17 May agreement. Other statements were made holding Syria responsible and instigating others against it because Syria rejects the cease-fire and its withdrawal.

However, nationalist circles realized since the beginning that the shah of B'abda's maneuver was doomed to failure. These circles stressed that there is no alternative to getting rid of the fascist hegemony and the domination by the ruling family. The same circles noted that the ruling family's regime is only seeking to benefit from the current consultations in order to restore its credibility by relying on various means and on U.S. military intervention. These maneuvers come while the U.S. Marines were compelled to officially annouce their retreat offshore before 0600 Saturday. They also came while U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the sponsor of the infamous plan and ill-omened agreement, declared that he still adheres to his criminal ideas and to Al-Jumayyil's regime, from which the Reagan administration decided to withdraw its confidence by suspending the shipment of heavy weapons to the factional Army.

'Ubayd, Syrian Official Meet Franjiyah, Karami

NC271209 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Jean 'Ubayd went to the north today and met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta. Before that he met with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Tripoli.

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali also visited the north today. He met with former President Franjiyah in Zgharta at 1130 and with former Prime Minister Karami at 1245.

Ihdin Radio Report

NC271155 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah this morning received Jean 'Ubayd, President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoy. They discussed the current situation in Lebanon during the meeting, which was attended by [Tripoli] Deputy 'Abdallah ar-Rafi'i.

Franjiyah also received Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, director of the Syrian Foreign Minister's office and President al-Asad's envoy. Following the 1 and 1/2-hour meeting, which was attended by Deputy ar-Rafi'i, the Syrian envoy said: I conveyed a message from His Excellency President al-Asad to President Franjiyah, and I am carrying a reply from President Franjiyah.

Al-Jumayyil Sends 17 May Accord to Chamber

NC251157 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1137 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] According to press reports today quoting political circles, President al-Jumayyil has signed a letter returning the 17 May agreement to the Chamber of Deputies for reconsideration. The palace sent the letter to the Chamber of Deputies by regular mail. The letter is expected to arrive at the beginning of next week when the Chamber will be at the start of its extraordinary session, which began today, Saturday.

The same circles link this move with the efforts being made to convene the second stage of the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva.

It has been reported that the Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland, who is in Beirut, will leave for Geneva tomorrow to begin making the necessary arrangements for this purpose.

Report Denied

NC252222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2210 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] A responsible source has denied a report carried by the media that the president signed a letter returning the 17 May agreement to the Chamber of Deputies for reconsideration and that the palace sent the letter to the Chamber by regular mail so it could be discussed during the Chamber's extraordinary session. The source said the report is unfounded.

IDF Close Remaining Road to Beirut 25 Feb

NC251028 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] According to information received from Tyre and other southern areas, extreme tension continues to prevail there despite reports that the Israeli Forces have lifted their siege of Ma'rakah. Reports say that citizens set fire to car tires, established earth barriers, and placed destroyed cars on main and side roads in an attempt to hinder the movement of Israeli vehicles.

The Israeli forces this morning closed the Batir ash-Shuf-Jazzin Road to traffic in both directions. The coastal road being blocked, this is the only road now used by the southerners to move between Beirut and the south.

Israel announced a short while ago that its forces came under fire from an ambush near Az-Zahrani. No casualties were reported.

U.S. Removes Lebanese Army Vehicles

NC250942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] A U.S. 6th Fleet warship was seen yesterday afternoon several kilometers north of Sidon. Landing craft from this warship were seen moving about 30 vehicles that were abandoned by the Lebanese Army's 4th Brigade during its withdrawal from positions on the coastal road between Sidon and Beirut following the western Ash-Shahhar operation.

Brigade Commander Denies Existence of Movement

NC241824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] We have received the following statement from Colonel Lutfi Jabir, commander of the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade:

The Grouping of Military Personnel [tajammu' al-'askariyin] in the north has issued a statement of support for the so-called Free Officers Movement, whose command is attributed to 1st Lieutenant Mustafa Hamdan. The 6th Brigade Command would like to point out that no such movement exists and that 1st Lt Mustafa Hamdan is one of the officers of the 6th Brigade observing proper military discipline and ethics. All officers of the 6th Brigade are abiding by the statement issued by the Brigade's Command on 8 February 1984.

PSP Supports Statement Issued by Islamic Meeting

NC241547 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1410 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, along with Muhsin Dallul, Anwar al-Fatayri, and Fu'ad Salman, visited Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid this morning. They conveyed to his eminence the Progressive Socialist Party's [PSP's] support for the nationalist stance adopted at the Islamic meeting in Dar al-Fatwa. They conveyed Walid Junblatt's greetings to Shaykh Khalid.

Hamadah and Junblatt regard the Dar al-Fatwa statement as an important document and a major working paper for national action.

Mufti Khalid on Saudi Peace Plan, Other Issues

NC261834 (Clandestine) Voice of The Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Commenting on the Saudi plan, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, has made the following statement to our correspondent: The Saudi plan is not clear. Nonetheless, the plan's four points represent a starting point for a good period in which I believe the cease-fire, the resumption of dialogue, and the abrogation of the 17 May accord can be discussed. His eminence added: If this plan constitutes a basis for realizing the desired goal, we will welcome it and will consider it a step by which the hopes and aspirations of strugglers and fighters would be achieved.

Asked to comment on the U.S. bombardment of residential areas, his eminence said: We reject, or rather denounce and condemn, bombardment in principle. There is no justification for the bombardment since the bombarded areas are inhabited by innocent citizens.

Urges Trials, Pact Abrogation

NC270738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, has demanded the trial of those responsible for attacking the Islamic and national areas. In an interview published in *AS-SAFIR* today, Mufti Khalid said the Islamic position is to insist on trying those responsible for attacking the mountain, Beirut's suburb, and West Beirut, be they government officials or military personnel. Compensation must be paid for these massacres and the grave losses sustained by all Islamic areas. This requires the formation of a collective military command that will restore confidence in the Army.

Mufti Khalid affirmed support for the principles outlined in the Islamic declaration, particularly on the establishment of a just democratic state free of political sectarianism and party hegemony and on the affirmation of the Geneva conference's resolutions on safeguarding Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and unity, as well as on Lebanon's Arab identity and affiliation, while regarding Syria as the natural backbone of this identity and affiliation.

Regarding the 17 May agreement, Mufti Khalid said: Our stand has been clear from the beginning — that this Lebanese-Israeli agreement will be harmful to Lebanon and will cause great losses in Lebanon's Arab relations, particularly with sisterly Syria. The recognized fact is that Lebanon must not be used as a base or staging point for the enemy or for the foreigner to harm our Arab brothers, particularly Syria. This is therefore the most serious phase which the Muslims in particular and Lebanon in general are passing through as a result of the absence of responsible officials because of the current Lebanese complexities. Hence, the formation of a reliable national government must be speeded up.

The 17 May agreement concluded with the Israeli enemy must be abrogated and the question of its abrogation must be raised at the national, Arab, and international levels so that all parties can assume their responsibilities, since the reasons for this agreement concern all parties.

Shi'ite Council Discusses Security Situation

NC261728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, including both its legislative and executive bodies, held a session today under Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din. It reviewed the political and security developments and the Security Council's deliberations. The Council expressed surprise at the statement by the UN secretary general regarding the UN emergency forces. The Council emphasized its firm stand on this issue in order to prevent any partitionist inclinations in Lebanon.

The Council contemplated Israel's oppressive actions in the south to supress the citizens' freedom and sovereignty. It hailed the sons of Ma'rakah township and their steadfastness. It urged all southerners to turn every Israeli aggression against them into an occasion for a general uprising and a comprehensive civil resistance of the Israeli enemy.

The Council also reviewed the security situation in Ra's an-Nab' and the southern suburb. It decided to continue its contacts to end the abnormal situations there.

Meeting Urges 'Fighters' To Observe Cease-Fire

NC261616 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1606 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] We have just been informed that, following the meeting attended by former Minister Marwan Hamadah and Amal officials, the conferees expressed their commitment to observe the cease-fire agreement. They urged all fighters on all axes to respect the agreement despite the ceaseless violations and attacks by the ruling family's Army and the Phalangist gangs.

Media Reports on Latest Events in Lebanon

Interception of U.S. Aircraft

JN261331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — A military spokesman has stated the following:

Within the premeditated acts of aggression against our forces in Lebanon, at 1310 today, 26 February 1984, U.S. aircraft overflew some of our positions. Our air defense means intercepted them and forced them to return seaward. Immediately after this, the U.S. warships near the shores of Antilys and Ad-Dubayyah began firing on our positions in Al-Matn. Our forces sustained no losses as a result of this shelling.

Cease-fire Violations, Shelling

JN260543 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Last night the U.S. warships shelled the nationalist forces' positions in Beirut and the mountain area. A Pentagon spokesman said that a 6th Fleet destroyer off the Lebanese coast fired 90 heavy caliber shells at the positions of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. PSP sources said that about 20 persons were killed as a result of the U.S. artillery shelling and that shells hit a number of houses and residential areas. Beirut radio said this morning that the sounds of artillery shells have been echoing in Berut since 0530 today. It added that these shells are being fired by the U.S. warships.

A short while ago the Voice of the Mountain said that the Phalangist army has violated the cease-fire and escalated tension on all fighting axes since yesterday evening with the participation of the U.S. warships. The Voice of the Mountain added that the Phalangist army and militias have not stopped their shelling of the nationalist positions from their emplacements in (Tallat al-Khayyat), Mukallis, Rumyah, and the periphery of the Defense Ministry.

Neutrality of VI Brigade Noted

JN251817 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The Phalangist Army opened machinegun fire on the axes of the southern suburbs and Dahr al-Wahsh this afternoon. Voice of the Mountain said that the heavy Phalangist sniper fire was also directed at the town of Al-Jahiliyah, and pointed out that guarded calm has prevailed in the other areas since this morning. AFP today quoted an informed source in the Amal Movement as saying that units of the Lebanese Army's VI Brigade will take up positions at the installations the U.S. Marines will leave near Beirut Airport. The source expects this measure to take place this evening after the U.S. Marines withdraw to the warships offshore.

It has been learned that the VI Brigade adopted a neutral stand on the clashes that took place in Beirut and the southern suburbs between the Lebanese Nationalist Forces on the one hand, and the army and the Phalangist militias on the other. It refused to shell the nationalist quarters and areas. The brigade is still stationed in western Beirut.

Completion of U.S. Marine Withdrawal

JN261442 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut, 26 Feb (SANA) — The U.S. Marines today completed their withdrawal from Beirut to the U.S. warships. The Lebanese national uprising army has taken up all the positions that the U.S. Marines occupied on the perimeter of Beirut International Airport.

Lebanese Army Defections

JN242125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] More than 300 Lebanese Army officers and men in northern Lebanon today declared their rejection of the orders of the Lebanese Army command in the Lebanese Ministry of Defense in Al-Yarzah in view of the command's bias in favor of the Phalangist Party. They have placed themselves at the disposal of Rashid Karami, former prime minister and member of the opposition Lebanese National Salvation Front, in support of their brothers who are fighting in other nationalist Lebanese areas. Agencies say that these officers and men issued a statement today in which they declared that only the nationalist legitimacy is legal and that nothing will be legal unless the Arabism of Lebanon is emphasized, the Zionist enemy and its allies are confronted, the 17 May agreement is cancelled, and justice and equality among the Lebanese people is realized. These officers and men affirmed that they will continue to cooperate with the nationalist elements in the Lebanese Army in order to bring down the Phalangist government in Beirut, confront the Zionist enemy, and support the Lebanese national resistance.

Commentaries View Lebanon, U.S. Mideast Policy

Bases For Lebanese Unity Examined

JN241559 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, at this delicate stage in the history of Lebanon and the region, the Lebanese people are watching the results of the current contacts and consultations being held to abrogate the Israeli-U.S. agreement imposed on Lebanon. Amid this atmosphere of expectation, everyone feels that the Lebanese people with their Arab identity, affiliation, culture, and future are the only option the Lebanese regime has. Consequently, the Lebanese people are still carrying arms, and their struggling nationalist forces are still armed and on the highest state of alert in order to confront any manuever or deceptive action against the Lebanese people's demands and will.

The majority of the Lebanese people have made their stand clear: Cancel the agreement of submission, reject U.S.-Israeli tutelage, and foil the racist Phalanigst hegemony over the future of Lebanon's people and homeland. Nobody and no single force can rob the Lebanese people of their will, deceive them, or manuever against them — regardless of the means of pressures and threats, and regardless of the games of blackmail and deceit. This is because the Lebanese people have never collectively agreed to common objectives as they are now doing, and because the path has never been as clear as it is now for the Lebanese people and their nationalist and basic political forces.

Because the Lebanese people's movement and uprising against the designs both of the internal and external enemies has terrified their enemies and turned their designs upside down, these enemies are still using deceit and threats to manuever against the Lebanese people in a desperate and feverish attempt to postpone the fulfillment of the Lebanese people's demands, delay the national solution, and escape from the problem of waiting for external developments to take place — developments of which the agents dream, since they are wavering and making threats with the enemies' sword.

Since it is understood that Washington, which suffered a total political defeat in Lebanon, is trying to intimidate the Lebanese people — with guns at certain times and with threats at others — in an attempt to prevent the foiling of the ill- omened Shultz agreement; and since it is also understood that Israel, which is losing everything because of the failure of the agreement, is using threats, dispatching terrorist patrols, and shelling the nationalist forces' positions, it is certainly strange and difficult to understand why some parties of the hegemonous minority in the Phalangist gangs, the Sham'un party, and other racists are begging the Israeli enemy to intervene against the Lebanese people and are inciting the enemy to wage aggression. We do not understand how these minorities can threaten the Lebanese people with the Israeli enemy's strength.

As this stand loosens the last fig leaf and exposes the treacherous reality of these racists, it also proves how concerned these minorities are about Israel and how hostile they are to Lebanon and the Lebanese people. It also proves that they are only attached to the Lebanese land and people as agents for Lebanon's enemies on the Lebanese territory, because their own interests, which are linked to those of the enemy, are their only concern in Lebanon's land and people. Otherwise, how can the Lebanese citizen accept threats from another Lebanese person who makes such threats on behalf of the Israeli enemy or the U.S. force? This is unprecedented in the history of treachery and treason. It also conflicts with the simplest forms of shyness or coyness.

The Lebanese people are now fully aware of the reality of those who have declared themselves to be representatives of the Israeli invasion forces in Lebanon. They are also aware of how they will deal with these representatives — by the logic of the deeply-rooted Lebanese nationalism. In addition they are aware that these agents' threats and commotions will only be a tempest in a tea cup, because the enemy in whose name they threaten and whom they incite in order to wage aggression could not terrorize or intimidate Lebanon's people. This enemy is looking for a way to save itself from its involvement in heroic southern Lebanon. The only option that the Lebanese regime has today, as in the past, is the option of the Lebanese people and their will. Those who are truly concerned about the Lebanese people and homeland must respond positively to the Lebanese people's will and conscience. The Lebanese people will never look at their national cause and demands for liberation and sovereignty as a choice between two deals or two bets, because the Lebanese homeland is neither a deal nor a gamble. It has been and will remain the option of the Arab, free, and unified people of Lebanon.

U.S. 'Defeat' in Mideast Viewed

JN250904 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The Historic Leadership and the Lebanese Lesson," *TISHRIN* says: Syria's steadfastness and acceptance of the U.S.-Israeli challenge in Lebanon is one of the greatest and most effective lessons. Syria took a great pan-Arab stand when it firmly rejected all kinds of concessions or compromises and confronted all the U.S. plans, thus stopping their advance and serious extensions into Lebanon. This lesson teaches us that to wager on the people and their cause means to wager on the winners and on a bright future. It also teaches us that a small, struggling people like the Syrian or the Lebanese people, when they have an outstanding political leadership or a leader who has the right concept of a comprehensive political strategy and the will to remain steadfast and accept challenges, can wage decisive, successful battles against the most tyrannical imperialist power of this age, the United States.

A small people, like the great people of Syria, with their small resources, can perfrom a miracle by defeating the fiercest and most tenacious example of imperialism in the 20th century. This is one of the achievements of Hafiz al-Asad's leadership in the battle of arm-twisting [ma'rakat kasr al-'adm] which Syria waged against the U.S. plans in Lebanon and the region. Reagan himself has admitted this, several U.S. Administration officials have admitted it, and all the world's political, diplomatic, and media circles have been talking about it.

The defeat — and not only the failure — of the U.S. policy in Lebanon is perhaps the most salient and obvious fact of this period. We knew beforehand that such an administration, which has been making many strategic errors, must out of necessity meet with strategic political defeats. This has taught us that people can triumph when the proper element of triumph becomes available to them. This element is the historic leadership that has historic vision and which can make a historic decision at the appropriate time. Then we will find the masses like a juggernaut, an irresistable force. That is what happened. The United States retracted its most serious decisions in Lebanon. It withdrew its troops and will withdraw its fleets and its frustrated forces because it is waging a perfectly losing battle against a people who are defending a just cause and who will always successfully defend this cause.

TISHRIN adds: However, we will not be vain or drunk with the spirit of victory. We are aware that the United States will not surrender so easily and abandon all its plans and projects. It will transfer the battle to other places where it thinks it will realize some sort of achievement within the strategy it has drawn up for the region, particularly since the U.S. election campaign is now ruling U.S. decisionmaking. If the next step is not in Lebanon — the Marines' withdrawal may be a maneuver or a decoy plan to make some sort of political or military arrangement — it will be in Jordan where the United States might exercise pressure to guarantee a quick achievement in the negotiations among Husayn, 'Arafat, and Israel, which was waiting for the results of the U.S. policy in Lebanon and the proof of the U.S. credbility in the region.

Very little has leaked out about the Husayn-Mubarak-Reagan meeting in Washington, but we can discern what happened concerning the Jordanian-'Arafatist alternative. It is useful to reiterate that such an alternative, no matter what form it takes, will not be better for the United States than Al-Jumayyil's alternative. The United States will not be able to attain in Jordan what it has not yet attained in Lebanon.

Syria, which imposed the Arab nation's will in Lebanon, will also be able to impose the Arab nation's will in Jordan. The near future will attest to this.

ATH-THAWRAH said in a comment today: Has the U.S. Administration benefited from the Lebanese dilemma and lesson? Indications point to the contrary. The paper adds: The U.S. Administration resorting to the big stick policy and the policy of hegemony bring to mind the principle of vacuums in world regions — a principle which guided the U.S. politicians in the 1950's and which proved to be a failure. This principle continues to guide and control the U.S. political mentality. The U.S. Administration's move to send rapid deployment forces to the region and its attempts to Arabize these forces by forming a Jordanian rapid deployment force shows that the United States is continuing its awkward, aggressive policy that will greatly harm the U.S. policy and interests in the region.

In other words, the U.S. Administration refuses to search for a way out of its impasse in the region. It is trying to escape defeat, frustration, and bitterness by plunging into a deeper impasse and facing a bigger defeat that will at best be complete defeat for U.S. policy and plans in the entire Arab region. Will the U.S. Administration face this fact with logic, reason, and wisdom before it is too late?

Failure of U.S. Commitments

JN251531 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, following the collapse of the U.S. policy and its objectives in Lebanon, U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced that the mission of the U.S. Administration and the U.S. forces in Lebanon and the eastern Mediterranean is to prevent a war between Syria and Israel. This Reaganist claim reveals the failure of President Reaagn's administration in Lebanon. It is known that when it interfered in Lebanon and dispatched its forces to this Arab country, the U.S. Administration did not consider preventing war between Syria and Israel as one of its objectives, because war has actually been taking place as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the clashes between the Israeli and Syrian forces there. It is known that U.S. President Reagan mediated a cease-fire in June 1982 and made promises that were conveyed to Damascus by presidential envoy Philip Habib. Among these promises was the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from Lebanon after the cease-fire was announced. It is also known that President Reagan's administration has not fulfilled its commitments. In fact, it has violated these commitments and supported the Israeli invaders who took up positions in Lebanese territory not more than 25 km. from Damascus.

President Reagan only deceives himself when he attempts to conceal the failure of his policy in Lebanon by claiming that the U.S. forces are present to prevent a war between Syria and Israel. Moreover, he is only deluding himself by attempting to conceal his responsibility for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the eruption of fighting between Syria and Israel. It has been confirmed through official statements and documents that the U.S. Administration is the one that advised the Israelis to invade Lebanon and the Israeli forces' to fight against Syria. This racial and hostile entity would not have been able to carry out aggression and invasion, or to use the policy of force and threats without U.S. support.

Reagan's claims about preventing a war between Syria and Israel are similar to the claims of a man who adds fuel to the fire then claims that he is present to prevent fire. President Reagan is mistaken if he believes that he can frighten Syria, affect its stand, or force it to change its policy by raising the subject of war between Syria and Israel — just as he was mistaken when he believed that he could impose his will on the Lebanese people, subjugate them to Israel and Israel's Lebanese agents, detach Lebanon from its Arab environment, and turn it into a means of pressure and blackmail in the U.S. Administration's hand against Syria and the other Arab countries just by dispatching 2,000 U.S. soldiers to the Lebanese territories.

The problem in Lebanon is not that of war between Syria and Israel. It is the problem of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the invaders' withdrawal from the Lebanese territories without conditions and restrictions; the problem of cancelling the 17 May agreement the United States has imposed in order to turn Lebanon into a U.S. satellite and an Israeli protectorate; the problem of establishing a national Lebanese government that represents all the Lebanese people's factions, adopts the Lebanese people's national interests, and works to safeguard Lebanon's independence, the unity of land and people, and Lebanon's Arab relations and commitments; and the problem of stopping the bloodshed and the U.S. interference in domestic Lebanese affairs.

The U.S. Administration is impotent to positively contribute toward enabling the Lebanese people to liberate their land, safeguard their independence, stop the fighting, and achieve national accord. The U.S. Administration has also failed to impose subservience and capitulation on the Lebanese people and to peddle the Reagan plan in the Arab arena through pressure and blackmail by means of the Lebanese card. Reagan's claims that the U.S. forces' withdrawal is not a defeat for him and that these forces' presence in the sea is to prevent a war between Syria and Israel will not alleviate the U.S. failure. If President Reagan believes that hinting at the possibility of using Israel against Syria militarily would serve him or his policy, he is covering the failure with a greater failure. Any Israeli aggression that the United States recommends will not be a picnic, a show of muscles, or an act of terrorism. It will be an action that will have very bad consequences on its perpetrators, who will pay a very dear price for this action.

U.S. Gulf Presence Viewed

JN261106 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 26 Feb (SANA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* has warned against the emergence of a U.S. military presence in the Gulf region and against the concentration of the U.S. fleets and warships there, considering this a threat to the Gulf states themselves, further interference in their own affairs, and an attempt to exacerbate the situation in the region.

Referring to what the former CIA director said to the effect that the United States will carry out a joint military action under the pretext of protecting the Strait of Hormuz from the impending danger, and recalling the announcement made in Washington and Tel Aviv about joint military exercises to be held in April, *the ATH-THAWRAH editorial says: This leads to a specific* result indicating that all this is part of the large imperialist-Zionist plan aimed at occupying the entire Arab lands and at subjugating their states and peoples to the will of the colonialist and NATO forces.

The paper adds: The United States has previously threatened more than once that it will occupy the Arab oilfields. It is today translating this threat into facts and practicies. Events indicate that it is heading toward military interference in the Gulf region under the pretext of the danger the Iraqi-Iranian war is posing to the Strait of Hormuz — a war that was basically kindled by the United States to justify its interference and to spread its hegemony. *ATH-THAWRAH* ends its editorial by warning that the results will not be in favor of the United States because it is incapable of covering up its defeat in Lebanon and because what happened in Lebanon was tantamount to a complete collapse of the U.S. policy and its hostile aims in the entire Middle East. Reagan's administration should comprehend this fact quite well. It should also realize that the language of guns and aggression has become rusty in the age of the peoples' liberation, and that the petty agents in the region are unable to uphold the U.S. policy, which began to be exposed to criticism and [word indistinct] inside the United States itself, exactly as the U.S. policy is unable to protect the agents and impose them by force.

AL-BA'TH on Al-Jumayyil Maneuvering

JN261217 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 26 Feb (SANA) — In its comment today, *AL-BA'TH* says that the U.S. Administration wishes to see the implementation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, for a number of reasons and has begun to escalate the situation in Lebanon, thinking that it is the right time for a military solution to the issue so that it can impose an absolute Phalangist rule on the people of Lebanon, and then work through that regime against other Arab countries, foremost of which of course is Syria. Were it not for Syria's rejection, steadfastness, and active resistance to the U.S.-Israeli plan, the situation now would have been reversed.

The paper adds: For the second time the calculations of the U.S. administration were wrong. Instead of settling the issue militarily in favor of the Phalangist regime, the nationalist forces achieved impressive victories that brought back the long lost balance to Lebanon. The paper explains: It has become clear that the crisis afflicting the land and people of Lebanon is not impossible to solve if there is a local basis for this solution. This means that all the sides should be conviced that the solution must serve Lebanon first and foremost. But the reality of the situation is exactly the opposite. There are those who sacrificed and are still sacrificing, for saving Lebanon and consecrating its Arabism and the unity of its soil and people, while some like the Phalangists, the liberals, and others are doing all that harms Lebanon and exposes it to fragmentation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The ruler of B'abda is still maneuvering about abrogating the agreement and gaining time because he is still convinced that it is better to wager on the United States and Israel than the Lebanese people.

17 May Pact Condemned

JN261730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] In implementing its policy, which is hostile to the Lebanese people and nationalist forces, the Lebanese regime is wagering on those forces that are hostile to the national interest and the people's aspirations for sovereingty and independence, and for living in a single, unified society in which the values of righteousness, justice, and peace will prevail and will preserve Lebanon's national existence and pan-Arab affiliation. Despite the fact that this regime is now certain, beyond a shadow of doubt, that its reliance on the United States has not realized for it what it wanted to realize, it is now renewing its wagering on the Zionists in order to subjugate the people and transform the homeland into a U.S.-Zionist protectorate. How else can we explain the regime's army shelling the people's houses and the nationalist forces' positions while the U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast are doing the same thing and the Zionist invasion forces are moving in to support the regime's army in its war against the people and the country?

The Lebanese regime's action is considered a continuation of its old policy, even if it pretends that it is ready to relinquish some of its previous stands — such as its adherence to the 17 May agreement and its insistence on implementing it. This regime does not want to change its well known stands and policies. It is trying to gain time and seek the opportune moment to implement the 17 May agreement. In other words, the regime is going ahead with its policy, which is based on deception, hypocricy, delusion, and antipeople practices. Had the regime been serious in its claims that it is working to preserve national independence and sovereignty, it would not have called in the U.S. forces to open fire at the citizens; would not have continued to demand their support, even after their withdrawal; and would not have signed with the Zionist enemy an agreement that grants this enemy the right to spread its domination over the homeland and transform it into a soft morsel and an easy prey for its ambitions.

What is the Lebanese regime waiting for? Why is it stalling and procrastinating? Why does this regime not carry out what it has admitted recently to be a national right? Why did this regime not cancel the 17 May agreement unconditionally? Does this mean that those who claim to be nationalists must prove their adherence to this agreement by laying down conditions that would in effect implement its contents?

The first thing the Lebanese regime should do now is to remove all the obstacles that prevent reconciliation among the Lebanese people. The Lebanese representatives have already agreed on Lebanon's Arab identity and pan-Arab affiliation. What is required now is to embody such an agreement in a clear political stand by the regime; namely, to immediately cancel the 17 May agreement and demand the enemy's immediate, unconditional withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories. Then the regime would be able to devote its efforts to following up the national reconciliation and effecting a consensus on which all the citizens will agree — namely, to guarantee their country's independence, sovereignty, unity, and freedom.

Naturally, Syria will not hesistate to extend all the means available to it in order to realize these national aims for the fraternal Lebanese people. Over the past 9 years, Syria has proved that it does not differentiate between its own national interests and those of its sister, Lebanon. Syria has offered hundreds of martyrs for Lebanon and has devoted its own resources to helping Lebanon, which made the Lebanese people feel the greatness of the Syrian role in realizing their national and pan-Arab aims. Syria does not have to provide further evidence to prove what it says. Syria means what it says and implements what it says. It does not need any further testimonials after the Lebanese land has been stained with the blood of its sons and given the greatest example of defending Lebanon's dignity, freedom, independence, and unity. Syria has heroically fought for Lebanon. It has sacrificed for it. It is a Syria of Arabism. It is Al-Asad's Syria.

AL-BA'TH on Marine Withdrawal

JN270955 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Events Preceding the Conspiracy" *AL-BA'TH* says: Yesterday was replete with events, some new and some old. If linked to one another, some of these events could come under the heading of what could befall or what is being concocted against our Arab homeland. The Zionist paper *MA'ARIV* reported that Amin al-Jumayyil, the head of the regime in Lebanon, wishes to visit Israel and that this wish has been communicated by his special envoy Smai Marun to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. Yesterday too, the commanders of the enemy army attended the Israeli Cabinet session and it was reported that they submitted an explanation to the Cabinet on the military and security situation in Lebanon. Reports from occupied Palestine also mentioned that a U.S. military delegation had arrived in Israel for talks on the strategic cooperation agreement concluded between Washington and Tel Aviv last year.

As for Lebanon, the U.S. warships and aircraft shelled nationalist positions in the mountain in an indiscriminate and barbaric manner. This was accompanied by a Phalangist escalation of the military situation on the traditional fighting axes. These events indicate that the scheme of aggression that has been formulated against our Arab homeland and which is implemented through Lebanon, has not halted and will not stop, and that the objective of the U.S. Marines' withdrawal to the sea has only been to redeploy them in a better way to enable them to act more effectively against the Lebanese nationalist forces and Syria. U.S. officials have explicitly stated this, particularly President Reagan who said verbatim: The Marines will return to the Lebanese shores at the appropriate time.

In our opinion, the resumption of the U.S. shelling of nationalist positions in such an intensive manner is a practical reaffirmation of the U.S. commitment to Al-Jumayyil's regime. Thus, this barbaric shelling may be the prelude to a broader military operation in which Israel may participate, particularly since the enemy's Cabinet yesterday discussed the situation in Lebanon in all its aspects and in the presence of the Zionist army's commanders. The announcement of Al-Jumayyil's intention to visit Israel is also further proof that the regime in Beirut is purely a Phalangist regime and that it has not yet been convinced, despite all that has taken place on the ground, that any presence other than the U.S.-Israeli-Phalangist presence in Lebanon must be taken into consideration. This substantiates the Lebanese nationalist forces' claim that the question of dialogue with the regime is futile, as this regime has exposed all its cards at one time. This also reaffirms that the regime's desire to hold a dialogue with the nationalist forces is merely an exposed maneuver to gain time to enable the parties to the big conspiracy to rearrange their state of affairs in the wake of the defeat they sustained at the hands of the nationalist forces.

We in Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces are fully convinced that the U.S. Administration has not accepted and will never accept what has taken place, and that together with Israel and the Phalangist regime it will once again try to change the current state of affairs in Lebanon. The statements made by all the Israeli, U.S., and Phalangist officials confirm this. However, we would like to reiterate that we will not accept a Lebanon without an Arab affiliation and whose territorial integrity is not be safeguarded.

Defense Minister on Retaliation For U.S. Acts

GF241610 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Feb 84 P 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Major General Mustafa Talas by *AL-WATAN* correspondent in Damascus Ghazi al-Jasim — date not given]

[Excerpt] Al-Jasim: Syria has repeatedly threatened to retaliate against the aggression carried out by the U.S. warships against the Lebanese people and against the Syrian forces present there. Will you have a hot confrontation with the United States? Will Syria use its stock of strategic weapons in order to retaliate to this barbaric bombing?

Talas: We absolutely do not want our confrontation with the U.S. plans in the region to become a military confrontation. Our goal is only to attain our people's just right and to drive away any danger that is aimed against our nation. But I have to assert that if the U.S. Administration forces us into a military confrontation in order to make us abandon our stances, we will then confront this aggression with suitable methods and with available weapons. We have everything arranged for every eventuality and we have prepared contingency plans for every situation. We have the courage to shoulder our responsibility and to retaliate at the proper time regardless of the consequences and the sacrifices.

Al-Jasim: Is the Syrian military capable of using the sophisticated strategic weapons?

Talas: I can satisfactorily say — with profound confidence — that our Armed Forces are well-trained technically and tactically. The process of training to use the strategic weapons is not a complicated matter for us as others think. Our forces have had for a long time efficient technical cadres who have been developed during the continuous procurement of modern weapons with which we supply our army. As is known, old weapons provide good experience for quick and efficient training on new weapons.

Al-Jasim: There are reports on missile units in the regions of Sannin, Shtawrahs and the Ash-Shuf Mountains. How accurate are these reports?

Talas: It is not a secret to say that our forces which are operating in Lebanon — within the Arab Deterrent Forces — have sophisticated and extremely efficient weapons of all kinds. This is our right and it is a necessity to confront our enemies. I would like also to refer to some sides who talk about this issue by saying that this talk stems from bad intentions against our country and is designed to use this matter as a pretext to justify massing further warships and U.S. weapons off the Lebanese coast in order to terrorize us and to attack us. Therefore I say: No matter how the United States masses weapons, we will neither be afraid nor will we abandon our positions.

Al-Jasim: There is a strategic alliance between the Israeli aggressors and Washington in the military and political fields. Can we consider relations between Syria and the Soviet Union as being parallel or equal to the said alliance?

Talas: Our relationship with the Soviet Union is based on friendship, joint cooperation and mutual respect. This is substantially different from "Israel's" relationship with the United States. Our relationship with the Soviet Union is based on the latter's political, financial, and moral support and backing for the just issues of our nation.

The Soviet Union supplies us with weapons in order to defend ourselves, to liberate our territories, and to attain justice for our people and nation. The Soviet Union does this without having any ambitions or trying to influence us as the imperialist and Zionist media report.

"Israel's" relationship with the United States is based on a division of interests between them, working, planning and ensuring joint coordination in order to achieve the further expansion for Israel at the expense of the Arab territories and for the usurpation of Arab rights so that Israel can become an advanced base for the United States in the region in order to help it extend its influence, dominate and establish military bases on the Arab territories so as to block the unity, the liberation and the progress of our nation.

At any rate, the Soviet Union is a sincere friend of ours. It provides us with the weapons we need and extends the necessary political and the diplomatic support. We, on our part, appreciate and respect the Soviet Union. We are joined with the Soviet Union in a friendship and cooperation pact which constitutes one of the most important guarantees for the continuation of our steadfastness and increasing our strength.

Damascus Reports, Comments on ‘Arafat Jordan Visit

‘Arafat Arrival Reported

JN261917 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Yasir ‘Arafat arrived in Amman on a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Jordan's King Husayn. In a statement to Amman radio, ‘Arafat praised the existing relations between himself and the Jordanian regime. He also praised the stand of Jordan's king and his readiness to continue the dialogue — the dialogue that serves the Palestine cause and the Arab nation, as ‘Arafat described it. It is noteworthy that this meeting is geared to efforts being exerted by the Camp David parties, in coordination with the Jordanian regime, to continue the conspiracies against the Palestine cause and to peddle the capitulatory and liquidatory solutions.

PFLP-GC Spokesman Cited

JN252000 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The PFLP-GC has denounced the resumption of talks between Yasir ‘Arafat and the Jordanian regime, and affirmed that the Palestinian masses will not be bound by the results of these talks. Fadl Shururu, the front's official spokesman and secretary of its Political Bureau, said in a statement today that the resumption of talks with the Jordanian regime was not discussed in any PLO institution, especially the Executive Committee. He added: While emphasizing that these talks do not express its opinion, the PFLP-GC declares that Yasir 'Arafat and his Central Committee as well as the Jordanian regime will be held responsible by the Palestinian people and the Arab nation for what might result from these talks.

PPSF Condemnation Cited

JN262015 Damascus Televison Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has condemned 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and the talks he will hold with Jordan's King Husayn. The PPSF asserted that these talks aim at giving Jordan's king a new card in an attempt to harm Palestinian representation and to bypass the PLO. This came in a statement by Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, PLO Central Council member and member of the PPSF Political Bureau. 'Abd al-Majid added that this visit comes after the talks Mubarak and Husayn held with U.S. President Reagan in an attempt to adopt a political move that would save the U.S. plan from the impasse it reached in the region.

Commentary Condemns Visit

JN260853 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Palestine Broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: Khalil al-Wazir and Hani al-Hasan have arrived in Amman to pave the way for Yasir 'Arafat. The significance of this step is very clear: The 'Arafat clique has submitted to the Jordanian desires, which were made clear to Khalil al-Wazir a few weeks ago, despite the alleged 'Arafatist displeasure with the new royal terms, which aim at driving the 'Arafatist leadership out of the game and neglecting it. The 'Arafatist leadership, therefore, is going to Amman to beg the king to grant it a role and to preserve some of its dignity after feeling that it is besieged and lost and that nobody cares or takes notice of it.

The Arab reactionaries are no longer in need of this leadership's help after losing its ability to exercise its role of fomenting sabotage in the service of the Arab reactionarism which is tied to the United States. Its clamor is now disturbing those who sponser it. It does not disturb those against whom it raises such a clamor. This is the condition of the 'Arafatist leadership as it goes to Amman. It is begging the Jordanian regime not to leave it lost, helpless, and in a state of suspension. However, there is a basic fact which faces both sides of the Jordanian-'Arafatist dialogue. What they will gain from the U.S. plan — if there is anything to be gained — is very little. It does not satisfy either of these two parties. How can these parties divide this little gain among themselves. Among the 'Arafatist leadership are those who compete for favor with the Jordanian regime. The spikes which will stop the wheels of the settlement are so strong and effective that they will make the Jordanian-'Arafatist dialogue on a settlement a dialogue among the deaf.

At this stage, the royal troubles are no less than the 'Arafatist troubles. In the east, Saddam Husayn is facing an unenviable position. In Lebanon, Al-Jumayyil is facing a very bad situation. Amid this situation where the tables are turned on the heads of the Americans and their followers, 'Arafat is looking for someone to give him a role that will save him from idleness. Will 'Arafat find this role in Amman? Be that role as it may, will it result in anything except stripping him of the rest of his aides, who are deceived by his leadership, and increasing his isolation?

Junblatt Arrives in Damascus From Amman

NC271303 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Progressive Socialist Party radio]

[Text] The nationalist leaderships have held further consultations to coordinate their moves to face the prevarications and deception being excercised by the government in seeking a political solution. Within this framework, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has held intensive contacts and consultations in Damascus since he arrived there from Amman.

GDR Minister Arrives in Damascus 25 Feb

JN251600 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA) — Felix Meier, GDR minister of electrical engineering and electronics, has asserted his country's support for Syria's just struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad to liberate the Arab land and realize just peace in the region. On arriving in Damascus this morning at the head of an official delegation, Meier made a statement in which he praised relations of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian and GDR peoples. He also stressed the importance of strengthening and developing these relations in order to serve the two countries, which are confronting a joint enemy — imperialism and world Zionism.

The guest delegation will hold economic talks throughout the week with Syrian officials with the aim of strengthening and developing bilateral relations in the fields of electricity, railways, and electrical industries. The delegation will also visit the electrical projects and railways being built in Syria in cooperation between Syria and the GDR.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Portugal's Cunhal

JN261515 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 26 Feb (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party Central Committee, in which he expressed complete solidarity with the Arab cause and with the struggle Syria is waging to defend its independence and the security of its territory against Zionist and U.S. imperialist aggressions. Cunhal expressed the hope that Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad will achieve more victories against imperialism and Zionism.

Reportage on 26 Feb Cabinet Session

Lebanon Debate Continues

TA251957 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] At its session tomorrow, the Cabinet will not conclude the debate on Lebanon, reports our political correspondent Yoram Ronen. The debate will only be held after the picture in Beirut becomes clear and not before President al-Jumayyil makes up his mind on the future of the accord with Israel. Our correspondent adds that Defense Minister Moshe Arens has not yet submitted to the Cabinet a fully developed plan regarding the new line along which the IDF will deploy in southern Lebanon.

The Cabinet debate on Lebanon began 2 weeks ago, and the follow-up discussions were postponed because of the prime minister's European tour. Several ministers, including David Levi, Yitzhaq-Moda'i, Zvulun Hammer, Aharon Uzan, and Mordekhay Tzipori have already expressed their opinions favoring an IDF withdrawal to a more southern line. It looks as if at tomorrow's session they will also ask that a resolution in this spirit be adopted.

No Decision Reached

TA261209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1137 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Cabinet session has just ended. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is in the broadcasting van near the prime minister's office. Shalom to you, Shim'on.

[Schiffer] Shalom. As in past weeks, the Cabinet heard reports on what is happening in Lebanon and the contacts to achieve an arrangement in Lebanon. Again, the Cabinet did not make any decisions on what Israel must do, in view of everything that is happening there. Let us listen to Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor:

[Begin Meridor recording] In its weekly session today, the Cabinet heard reports on the latest developments in Lebanon. Following the reports, the Cabinet continued the debate it began 2 weeks ago. The debate was summed up by the prime minister, but no decisions were made. This portion of the meeting was held within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

The prime minister reviewed for the ministers his visits to Europe — to Belgium, and the Netherlands — and the meetings and talks he held there with the prime ministers of both these countries and with the foreign ministers of the European Community. [end recording]

[Schiffer] After the Cabinet session, we asked Dan Meridor what else must happen before the Cabinet makes some decisions. The secretary also prompted a question on the U.S. contacts with the PLO. Let us listen to both answers: [last two sentences as heard]

[Begin Meridor recording] Nothing prevents the Cabinet from making a decision. The Cabinet has discussed this issue many times, particularly during the debate which began 2 weeks ago and was concluded today, but has not deemed it proper to make any decision. I cannot talk about a decision that has not been made. I can only say that the debate revolved around the question of what will happen and what Israel must do regarding Lebanon. The objective is known to all of us, namely, to maintain peace in the Galilee. In this context, the ministers did not think there was any need to make a decision. Also, a proposal was not put forward for a decision. [end recording]

[Schiffer] Incidentally, some observations were made in the Cabinet session regarding a report we broadcast this morning about a U.S. delegation scheduled to arrive here today to discuss bilateral strategic cooperation. Several ministers remarked that this leak or report could harm this cooperation. It should be emphasized that this entire question of cooperation still remains within the framework of deliberations of possible scenarios and proposals which have been discussed for many years but which have not yet resulted in anything.

Source Comments on Lebanon

TA270801 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] A senior political source stated last night that the IDF would not withdraw from the Al-Awwali until the situation in Lebanon becomes clear. Speaking with the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent, the political source said there is no reason why Israel should make rash decisions about withdrawing to a new line for which it would be sorry later. He emphasized that this is one of the lessons learned from our withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains and that this approach is shared by the prime minister, the defense minister, and the chief of staff.

The political source confirmed that a few weeks ago there had been a move to make a decision, within a short time, to redeploy the IDF in southern Lebanon, to effect a significant thinning out of troops and to withdraw to the Az-Zahrani. However, the latest developments in Lebanon, including the deterioration of President Amin al-Jumayyil's position, the uncertainty about the viability of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement of 17 May 1983, and the uncertainty over developments in Lebanon following the evacuation of the U.S. Marines from Beirut had forced Israel to act very cautiously.

Authoritative sources in Jerusalem made it clear last night that there is no intention to change the recent policy of carrying out armored patrols north of the Al-Awwali River and Air Force attacks on areas vacated by the IDF to ensure that terrorists do not take over these areas. According to these sources, the dozens of patrols carried out by troops along the coastal road proved themselves by the fact that the terrorists have not returned to these areas.

A senior political source also emphasized last night that the postponement of a redeployment does not stem from pressure exerted by the U.S. Administration but rather from pure political and security considerations. According to this source, the United States has not at all exerted pressure on us to postpone the withdrawal from the Al-Awwali River. Nevertheless, the source clarified that if the situation in Lebanon stabilizes, a decision about a redeployment may be made shortly afterwards.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that the Cabinet's failure to make any decisions proves that most Cabinet members support the position advocated by Shamir and Arens that Israel should not rush to make decisions about a withdrawal to the Az-Zahrani, and that those ministers who had urged a redeployment in the near future have come to terms with the position of the majority.

Frankel Reports on Session

TA261540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] Government spokesmen today refused to clearly specify or explain why the Cabinet did not make any decisions regarding its next moves in Lebanon. The debate itself was held within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which naturally obviates publication of the details of that meeting.

Let us remind the listeners that at issue is a debate that was launched 2 weeks ago, with the defined topic being the continued Israeli presence in southern Lebanon. Government sources explained today that the ministers do not believe at the present that the current situation and circumstances call for a decision. This means that the policy in southern Lebanon is not changing; the IDF will remain along the Al-Awwali line. No draft resolutions at all were submitted to the Cabinet today, and it looks as though the absence of any decision marks a victory for the line presented over the past 2 weeks by the prime minister and the defense minister, who maintain that the situation in Lebanon is fluid and we should not rush to make decisions.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, who demanded over these past 2 weeks an urgent decision, came under attack by his fellow ministers today, who criticized him for the positions he was quoted as having by the media, both in connection with the withdrawal to the Az-Zahrani line, as well as in regard to the IDF operation north of the Al-Awwali. Levi replied to his attackers: Time will tell who is really abusing the media by pointing an accusing finger at others. It looks as though the security debate that has been going on over the past 2 weeks deepened the rift between Levi, on the one hand, and Shamir and Arens on the other hand. This afternoon the prime minister and his deputy are expected to meet, and possibly also discuss the fabric of their relations.

Other matters that were debated by the Cabinet today included a report by the prime minister on his visit to Brussels and his talks with the European foreign ministers. Shamir said in Europe that the United Nations could serve in a future arrangement in Lebanon in securing buffer zones between military forces and the various factions. Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor referred to the reports on contacts between the U.S. Administration and personalities identified with the PLO:

[Begin Meridor recording] We expressed to the United States our dismay over the indirect contacts that have been held — as reported by the press — with the PLO. We expect the United States to fulfill its promise and written commitment not to conduct contacts with the PLO in the absence of certain conditions which naturally have not been fulfilled yet. I would add that these conditions merely describe the state of affairs in which the United States would conduct talks with the PLO. We, as everyone knows, will not conduct talks with the PLO under any circumstances. [end recording]

As for the debate in Congress on transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Dan Meridor said that the situation in which foreign embassies are not located in Jerusalem is abnormal and not just.

Finally, Minister Ya'aqov Meridor reviewed at the session the visit he had held in Washington and in other parts of the United States in anticipation of the meeting of an economic conference in Israel in May. Some 300 businessmen and potential investors will then arrive in Israel. Minister Yuval Ne'eman mentioned at the meeting that a similar conference, held in 1968, gave a tremendous momentum to the Israeli economy. Minister Avraham Sharir wanted to cool down the enthusiasm and said, furthermore, that the results of similar, previous events, have not lived up to expectations.

There was also a confrontation between the two ministers — Sharir and Meridor — against the background of the tourism minister's desire to include the tourism issue in the conference.

Still another topic that was on the agenda — emigration from Israel — was not debated at the present session. An announcement was received from the office of Deputy Minister Dov Shilansky that due to the abundance of issues, this topic has been postponed until another Cabinet session is held.

Levi Criticizes Fellow Ministers

TA261742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Ministers today levelled harsh criticism at Deputy Prime Minister David Levi following statements he recently made about the war in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is here to tell us in detail what was said at the meeting.

[Anchorman Yosi Qoren] Is there any information on what the prime minister told his deputy this afternoon?

[Schiffer] The prime minister conferred this evening with his deputy, David Levi, and as reported by the prime minister's office, the two discussed current affairs. Yitzhaq Shamir is in the habit of updating his deputy and discussing current affairs in private, which is why no details have been reported on that meeting. However, as reported, the statements recently made by David Levi — or those attributed to him on Lebanon — were not broached at all in the meeting between Yitzhaq Shamir and David Levi.

Nevertheless, ministers today severely criticized Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, against the background of the remarks attributed to him — namely, that the Cabinet in fact has not been presented with a plan by Defense Minister Moshe Arens regarding Lebanon and how to deploy there. Furthermore, it was also reported that David Levi objected to the moves proposed by Minister Arens last week to expand the IDF patrols north of the Al-Awwali River.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi this evening reacted sharply to these reported remarks and told us: These anonymous ministers, who concoct gossip in their own minds and make sure the media gets word of this as though it were a leak from a so-called closed Cabinet session, are the actual program divulgers. While they leak my positions, it is highly questionable whether they have any opinion whatsoever about any topic. My attitude toward them is pity.

Let us repeat once again: These are extremely harsh statements by David Levi against his colleagues, some of whom he regards as divulgers of his remarks, whom he regards — let us repeat once more — with pity.

HA'ARETZ Criticizes Cabinet

TA270639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HA'ARETZ* says that the government is still shirking its responsibility to make unavoidable and absoltely necessary decisions regarding Lebanon; it is not necessarily because it fears the PLO organizations will return to the area adjacent to our northern border, as the government claims, but because it is afraid to admit that the Lebanese war has not achieved its goals. However, it is possible to give up a presence in most areas in southern Lebanon and to still maintain peace in the Galilee. Our general security situation will only be strengthened if we give up the dreams of creating a new Lebanon and return the IDF to its true duty, training, so that it can, in due course, fulfill its mission of fighting a defensive or an imposed war.

Arens on Lebanon Withdrawal, Security Arrangements

TA271210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1145 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Some time ago Defense Minister Professor Moshe Arens cautioned against a final withdrawal of our forces from Lebanon before the appropriate security arrangements are achieved. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports:

[Eshel] The defense minister believes that an important lesson must be learned from the firing of three Katuysha rockets at northern Israel some weeks ago. The lesson is that there are elements interested in shelling the north and that they would have done so had our forces not been in the area. Those who say that our forces should be withdrawn from there are basing themselves on their own predictions. Arens's prediction, however, is totally different.

[Begin Arens's recording] My own prediction, also based on the incident in which Katuysha rockets fell near Metulla, is that if we pull out tomorrow without coordination and security arrangements with elements that would control the area in our place, the moment we withdraw outside the range of Katyushas, I think it can be said with certainty, there will be Katyushas. This will not resemble the incident in Metulla when somebody rushed out at 0100 and could not even aim them, but these will be real Katyushas.

I do not think this is a nightmare. We see the facts in this case; we can see what will happen with quite a measure of certainty. However, the presence in Lebanon is forced on us and the fact that we have not yet achieved those security arrangements and that we have not yet found the elements who could conceive of an affinity of interests with us — and such elements exist...[transmission cut in mid-sentence] [end recording]

Shamir: 'Israel Will Not Trust' PLO

JN241557 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel will not trust the terrorist organization calling itself the PLO, even if it recognizes Israel. This came in an interview broadcast last night on the Netherlands television.

Al-Jumayyil Envoy Suggested Official Visit

TA260649 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] First of all, it should be stated that nobody in Jerusalem is taking the possibility that Amin al-Jumayyil may visit Israel very seriously. However, this proposal more than anything else demonstrates the state of despair among the Christian community in Lebanon.

A Lebanese figure, known to be closely associated with President Amin al-Jumayyil, visited Jerusalem about 2 weeks ago. According to this person Al-Jumayyil is now at a crossroads: Should he opt for the Syrian or for the Israeli option? This, after he was disappointed with the ability of the Americans to help him. It was further noted that Al-Jumayyil is ready to pay an official visit to Jerusalem and strengthen his alliance with Israel, the alliance that began with the agreement signed on 17 May 1983.

It was not stated in so many words, but according to the Lebanese figure it was understood that the government in Beirut would in exchange ask for Israel's aid against the Lebanese opposition, the Druze and the Shi'ites. In this case, the meaning was active aid and real military assistance by the IDF.

This proposal was not pursued any further by either of the two sides. Some people in Jerusalem doubted the credibility of the envoy, whether he was still representing Amin al-Jumayyil and why was he chosen as the man to convey this message. Moreover, nobody in Israeli politics is ready to involve the IDF in the sectarian fighting in Lebanon and nobody is prepared to gamble on Amin al-Jumayyil's ability to enforce his rule beyond the limits of Beirut.

Meanwhile, it should be pointed out that requests from the Lebanese Christian community for aid and for reviving the alliance that led to Operation Peace for Galilee arrive in Jerusalem daily. These efforts have had one result at least: Those dealing with the Lebanese issue in Jerusalem assess that the main reason why the Israeli-Lebanese agreement has not yet been abrogated is the pressure on Al-Jumayyil from within the Christian community rather than his weakening relations with Washington and Jerusalem.

Further Report

TA260907 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Feb 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Shefi Gabay, 'Oded Granot, and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] The Lebanese president's personal envoy Sami Marun recently met in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other Israeli figures and made a desperate request for Israel to help President al-Jumayyil. The envoy hinted that if it was necessary, Al-Jumayyil would come to Jerusalem or hold official contacts with Israel in which he would express open support for the agreement between his country and Israel. He is making his visit to Israel or official contacts dependent on active Israeli aid in his struggle for survival.

Israel has refrained from giving a binding answer and there is no certainty in Jerusalem that Al-Jumayyil would really be prepared to go so far as to visit Israel.

Labor Party's Peres Interviewed on U.S. Talks

TA251954 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by Washington correspondent Elimelekh Ram, in Washington — date not given; videotaped]

[Text][Ram] MK Peres, after a series of meetings with administration leaders, with the secretary of state, the vice president, and congressmen, what do you think: What can we expect of the United States in the near future?

[Peres] I think that no revolutionary changes will take place until after the elections. I think some development has taken place in regard to settling matters in Lebanon involving a rather staunch stand in the face of the Syrians, war against terrorism, and somewhat in the great hope that it would be possible to resume the peace process with Jordan.

[Ram] What is Israel actually being asked to do, or what will it be asked to do?

[Peres] I think they have expectations of Israel primarily in connection with the great move, although not in the immediate future: To enter negotiations in order to pursue the peace process.

[Ram] When you mention the great move, do you mean the Reagan initiative?

[Peres] Yes.

[Ram] Do you not think that the initiative is dead?

[Peres] My impression is that not only is it not dead, but it is very much alive. However, right now it is in some sort of slumber, both because of the difficulty of rejuvenating it during the election period, as well as because Jordan first of all wants to gain a profit from the Americans themselves.

[Ram] What is your opinion about what Israel's reaction to the Reagan initiative should be?

[Peres] I think it is necessary to have an Israeli initiative. I distinguish between the Reagan initiative and the Reagan plan. The initiative itself is not bad, but the plan is not acceptable to us in full. I think Israel itself should come up with proposals to the United States, the same as I think in connection with the Syrian-Lebanese issue we should likewise initiate things and come and suggest things to the United States.

Peres Returns From Visit

TA261753 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1730 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 26 Feb (ITIM) — Following his return from talks in the United States, Peres said that the representatives of the U.S. Administration are worried about the phenomenon of terror, which for them is a new experience. He also said that the Americans are still hoping for the advancement of the peace process in the Middle East, and that Jordan will join this process. "They are not particularly optimistic about the chances of Al-Jumayyil. They will continue to aid him, but to a lesser extent than before," he said.

Protest Lodged With U.S. Over PLO Leader Visit

TA270834 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Feb 84 pp 1,11

[Report by Yosef Harif and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Israel has lodged a protest with the United States because the latter granted a visa to 'Arafat's senior adviser, Hani al-Hasan. The adviser was in the United States during the visit of King Husayn and President Mubarak to Washington.

During the same period, Hasib al-Sabr — a PLO member who holds a U.S. passport — met with National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane. The U.S. Administration has not denied these reports.

Israel lodged its protest over the issuing of the visa and the meeting about 10 days ago. The U.S. response to the protest was evasive.

Kohen-Orgad Comments Prior to Departure for U.S.

TA260651 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The finance minister is departing for the United States. The Americans will not hear from me more than what the Israeli people have heard recently — this was the promise made by the finance minister who is now leaving with the director general of his ministry for Washington to hold economic talks at the invitation, the first of its kind, of the U.S. secretary of state.

Prior to his departure, Yig'al Kohen-Orgad told our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik: I am not carrying either new ideas or new requests.

[Begin recording] [Kohen-Orgad] The general rule which I have adopted is that a policy is presented to the policy-making bodies: the Cabinet, the Knesset, and the public. This is what I have been doing and will continue to do. In the talks I will hold tomorrow and the day after in the United States, deliberations will be held on the plan, which has actually been put into practice by the Government, at the level of detail — at times higher and at times lower — of the documents that have been presented by the Finance Ministry. We will discuss trends and plans for this year and plans for the upcoming years. These plans indicate that we will continue to reduce the deficit in the balance of payments after 1984. We will be able to point out that efforts are being made, first and foremost, in our own backyard.

[Sukenik] Will you present them with new requests during this visit or will you merely answer questions?

[Kohen-Orgad] These will not be question-and-answer sessions, but talks. New requests will not be made. Israel's aid request for next year has been submitted to the U.S. Government. This request speaks about an increase in economic aid by some $300 million. Again, this is not a dramatic change when compared to the scope of the aid. We will have to make an effort, first and foremost, at home. [end recording]

MAPAM Reelects Shemtov Secretary General

TA261221 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1144 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Less than an hour ago the MAPAM Center reelected MK Victor Shemtov as the party's secretary general for another 4-year term in office. Our correspondent Uri Ginosar reports that 178 supported Shemtov as opposed to 141 who supported Haya Grossman.

Completes Leadership Elections

TA262027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The MAPAM center this evening completed the election of the leadership team. MK Haya Grossman was elected the political secretary; Naftali Ben-Moshe secretary for social affairs; and Hanan Erez will be secretary for organizational matters.

IDF Spokesman Denies Reports of Soldiers Killed

TA250531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The IDF spokesman has categorically denied reports from Beirut that five Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush in Sidon yesterday. Earlier in the day a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol near Sidon. No one was hurt, the army spokesman said.

Incident in Village Near Tyre Reported

IDF Fire Wounds Two

TA241411 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Sources in the army reported that two local residents were slightly injured in a demonstration by Shi'ite residents in the village of Ma'rakah near Tyre. An IDF patrol which was moving through the village was stoned. The soldiers fired warning shots and two residents were slightly injured by the fire. Villagers claimed that four people were killed by the shots. Quiet now prevails in the region.

Further on Ma'rakah Incident

TA241556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Shi'ite inhabitants of nine villages in the Tyre area are demonstrating to protest the incident that occurred this morning in the village of Ma'rakah. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the inhabitants are blocking the roads and setting tires on fire. Large IDF units are patrolling the area.

Military sources reported this morning's incident occurred when an IDF patrol came to the village to disperse a demonstration and was pelted with stones. The soldiers fired warning shots, injuring two local inhabitants slightly.

The UNIFIL spokesman has reported that a Senegalese unit wanted to enter the village after hearing shooting and explosions, but an IDF unit prevented them from entering. The UN soldiers reported that IDF ambulances evacuated many injured people to Sidon and Tyre hospitals.

IDF Arrests Amal Members

TA251816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Several members of the Shi'ite organization Amal were arrested in the village of Ma'rakah in southern Lebanon over the weekend. The arrests were carried out by the IDF. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that officers in southern Lebanon have informed the Amal people that they are not immune to arrests. Our correspondent notes that quiet prevailed today in the Shi'ite vilalges in southern Lebanon. In Ma'rakah two people were injured yesterday in an incident with the IDF.

UNIFIL, IRC Protest Incident

TA271047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] In southern Lebanon the International Red Cross [IRC] and UNIFIL submitted a sharp protest to the IDF because it prevented them from extending medical and humanitarian aid to the civilians injured during arrests carried out by the IDF in the village of Ma'rakah, east of Tyre, over the weekend. The representatives of both organizations say that the men arrived at the village unarmed and at the invitation of the local inhabitants.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that during the meeting with UNIFIL sodiers, the IDF officers sharply took exception to the protest, emphasizing that the IRC team arrived at the village 4 hours after the IDF had already evacuated the injured people.

UNIFIL's deputy commander was invited into the village and received an explanation about the operation from a senior IDF officer. In any event, the IDF officers stressed, the vital security activity in southern Lebanon against people associated with terrorism will continue.

Delegates Arrive in Addis Ababa for OAU Meeting

EA261548 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Summary] Representatives of 19 countries to take part in the 40th OAU regular ministerial session in Addis Ababa arrived this morning. They include foreign ministers and representatives of Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Morocco, Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Comoros, Benin, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and the ANC.

More on PANA Intergovernmental Council Meeting

Motion on PANA Adopted

AB242030 Dakar PANA in French 1315 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Dakar, 24 Feb (PANA) — During the closing session of its third meeting, the Intergovernmental Council of the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY adopted a motion of satisfaction and encouragement. Here are the contents:

The Intergovernmental Council of PANA held its third ordinary session from 20 to 23 February 1984 in Dakar.

— After hearing, analyzing, and adopting the director general's report on PANA's activites;

— Considering the difficult conditions surrounding the creation of an organization of continental dimension, particularly in the sensitive and delicate field of information;

— Considering the quantity and quality of the services provided by PANA since it actually commenced operations on 25 May 1983;

— Considering that in spite of an unfavorable world environment, PANA was able to begin on 25 May 1983 with the support and commitment of member states;

— The Intergovernmental Council expresses its satisfaction, and encourages PANA's director general to pursue his efforts toward consolidating and developing the activities of PANA, a first-rate instrument for rapprochement between the peoples of Africa, and renews its trust in Mr Diallo in the pursuit of his mission.

SWAPO Delegate Speaks at Closing

AB242040 Dakar PANA in French 1400 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Dakar, 24 Feb (PANA) — During the closing session of the third ordinary meeting of the Intergovernmental Council [IC] of the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, the representative of SWAPO, Eddy Amkongo, spoke on behalf of hisorganization and the ANC represented by Ahmed Nkono. He expressed thanks to the IC for inviting representatives of these southern African liberation movements to attend its meeting, which, he said, was very beneficial to us. He also expressed the gratitude of the ANC and SWAPO toward PANA and its director general for all the efforts made in the cause of the liberation struggle.

Speaking on the current situation in Namibia, South Africa, and the Frontline States — of which, he said, we think delegates at this council are aware — the SWAPO representative described it as difficult. Although much remains to be accomplished, the struggle being carried out by SWAPO in Namibia and by ANC in South Africa, has reached a crucial and decisive point, he stressed. Mr Amkongo added, that by putting a temporary halt to its expansionist ambitions and belligerent attacks on Frontline States, particularly Lesotho, Angola, and Mozambique, and by engaging in peace negotiations with those states, the racist and oppressive apartheid regime of South Africa is using new maneuvers aimed at recovering diplomatic ground lost to liberation movements over the past 20 years.

He nevertheless expressed his approval for negotiations if they can help bring about the independence desired by Namibia and South Africa, the suppression of apartheid, and the elimination of tension which would be replaced by a climate of peace and security in the region. The SWAPO delegate also regrettfully noted that certain independent African media believe in these maneuvers to such an extent that they have been criticizing the actions of certain liberation movements and Frontline States without correctly analyzing them, and considered this attitude as prejudicial to African objectives. In order to overcome this unhealthy situation, he called for deeper [words indistinct] that would enable them to positively present well-analyzed facts related to the history of the issues they handle.

Session Ends; Lara Interviewed

AB240944 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The third session of the PANA Intergovernmental Council concluded last night in Dakar. Several delegates have already flown home. This is the case of Lucio Lara, Angolan information minister and PANA Intergovernmental Council chairman. He was seen off by Mr Kahne, permanent undersecretary, who was deputizing for his minister, Djibo Ka, minister of information. Mr Lara took stock of the session in response to a question from Demba Ndiaye:

[Begin recording] [Ndiaye] Mr Minister, you have just concluded the third session of the PANA Intergovernmental Council. Could you take stock of the session for us?

[Lara] (?We believe) the results are positive. [passage indistinct]. The council examined all aspects of the (?problems) facing PANA. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

ALGERIA

Ministers Confer With USSR's YA. Ryabov

PM241617 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Feb 84 p 4

[APS report: "Cooperation Between Algeria and USSR"]

[Text] Algiers — Planning and National Development, Talks Between Ali O'bouzar and Yakov Petrovich Ryabov

Planning and National Development Minister Ali O'bouzar had a meeting at his ministry yesterday witth Mr Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

During that meeting, which was attended by USSR Ambassador to Algiers Vasiliy Taratuta, economic relations between the two countries and the strengthening and development of Algerian-Soviet cooperation were discussed.

Increasing Cooperation in the Light Industries Sphere

Mr Messaoudi Zitouni, member of the Central Committee and minister of light industries, had a meeting at his ministry yesterday with Mr Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is visiting Algiers for the ninth session of the Algerian-Soviet joint economic, scientific, and technical cooperation commission.

During the meeting, which was attended by the USSR ambassador to Algiers, relations between the light industries sector and Soviet firms and institutes were discussed, as were prospects for their development.

Equipment of Vocational Training Establishments on Agenda

In conjunction with the ninth session of the Algerian-Soviet joint commission, and in the framework of cooperation in the vocational training sphere, Mr Mohamed Nabi, candidate member of the Central Committee, and minister of vocational training and labor, had a meeting at his ministry with Mr Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The talks between the two ministers related in particular to cooperation questions linked with the staffing and equipment of vocational training establishments.

Examination of Prospects for Increasing Cooperation in the Energy Sector

Mr Belkacem Nabi, member of the Central Committee, and minister of energy and petrochemical industries, had a meeting at his ministry yesterday with Mr Ryabov, co-chairman of the Algerian-Soviet joint commission which is now meeting in Algiers. During the talks they assessed current cooperation between the enterprises concerned, and examined prospects for increasing cooperation in the energy sphere.

Mr Ryabov is due to go to Hassi-r'Mel today where he will tour the site on which the Soviet enterprise TMPE [expansion unknown] is working in connection with the construction of a section of the Alrar-Hassi-r'Mel gas pipeline.

Cooperation Agreements With USSR

LD260415 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Abdelaziz Khellef, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of trade, and Mr Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Committee on Foreign Economic Relations have signed two documents concerning the development of bilateral cooperation.

The first document is the minutes of an agreement crowning the work of the 9th session of the joint Algerian-Soviet commission. The minutes stated that the two sides discussed and decided to promote bilateral cooperation. It notes the participation of the Soviet side in completing some projects of economic nature particularly in the energy, irrigation, vocational training, and transport sectors. The two sides agreed to establish a program of commercial exchanges for a medium-term duration. As for the second document it concerns an agreement to complete and finance the thermal power station in Jejel.

Prime Minister Receives Ryabov

LD261400 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Algiers, 26/2/84 (APS) — Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Ibrahimi conferred with Yakov Ryabov member of the Soviet Union Communist Party chairman of the State Committee for Economic Relations and co-president of the Algerian Soviet joint commission. Talks were centered on ways of promoting bilateral relations. Also present at the meeting were Trade Minister Abdelaziz Khellef co-chairman of the joint commission and Soviet ambassador to Algiers.

Malagasy President Arrives on Working Visit

LD252049 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Algiers 25 Feb (APS) — President of Madagascar Mr Ratsiraka arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a working visit. The president of Madagascar, who arrived in Algiers accompanied by his wife and the minister of finance, was received at Algiers International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, his wife and a number of Political Bureau, Central Committee and government members.

LIBYA

JANA: Sudan Rebels Advancing Toward Malakal

LD242033 Tripoli JANA in English 1856 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] London, Jumada al Ulla 20, February 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A statement issued today by the Sudan Liberation Front said that Sudanese revolution fighters are advancing towards Malakal in the Upper Nile Province. The statement said the fighters are shelling government forces in the city and that they have destroyed two of their armored vehicles.

London radio said that on their advance towards the city, the fighters attacked two armored vehicles belonging to the government army.

JANA: Paris Radio Says Sudan Regime Collapsing

LD241316 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Paris, Jumada al Ulla 20, Feb 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The France inter radio [Paris Domestic Service] confirmed that the regime of hireling Numayri is collapsing due to its economic and the political difficulties, as well as the armed uprising in the south. The radio's correspondent in Sudan reported that Numayri is facing two battles: a political one in Khartoum and a military one in the south jungles.

The radio ridiculed allegations by Numayri describing the revolution against his regime as hostile action by Libya and Ethiopia, and his false classification of the revolutionary fighters as "pirates". In contrast to Numayri's claims, the radio went on to say the revolution in the south everyday gains new fighters from various parts of the country.

The morale of the army has become very low, the radio said. Moreover, the economy is suffering particularly after the freezing of oil exploration and the Junglei canal project, the paper [as received] pointed out. Faced with increasing uprising, Numayri resorted to throwing innocent people into jail, the paper said.

Radio Bardai Cited on Chad Fighting

LD260733 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Radio Bardai, which speaks for the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], confirmed 2 days ago that fierce battles have taken place between the GUNT forces headed by Goukouni Oueddei and the forces of the mutineer Hissein Habre, which caused 80 deaths and scores of injuries among the forces of the rebellion clique in Ndjamena. The radio, which was picked up in Lome, explained that these violent battles, which had lasted for several days as of 10 February, took place 400 kilometers south of latitude 16 in a valley, 150 kilometers away from Abache in eastern Chad.

The radio stressed that the GUNT forces scored a crushing victory during these battles against the forces of the rebel Habre, affirming that they will continue the struggle in Chad against the French and Zairean occupation. The radio added that the GUNT forces have captured weapons and large trucks loaded with ammunition.

The radio affirmed that French imperialism will never score a victory over the Chadian revolution.

JANA Editor Comments on Rift With Jordan

LD241756 Tripoli JANA in English 1630 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 21, February 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY political editor has commented on the unilateral decision taken by the Jordanian royal regime to cut off diplomatic relations with Jamahiriyah by saying that the Jordanian king's decision to sever relations with Libya has been done against the will of the Jordanian people, and has only found echo within the circles that are more adulating and are more connected with the regime's capitulationist policies, especially within the so-called "house of notables and parliament" where the slogans of "hear, hear" are constantly repeated. It has also clearly shown that the Jordanian regime took the initiative to adopt such a measure to avoid the Libyan agitation that continues to expose Jordanian policies, together with subservient path adopted by the royal regime and his [as received] participation in the Camp David agreements.

Basically, it was expected to see such a decision taken, brought forth by the desire of the royal regime — which is considerably involved in reactionism — to back the imperialist policy hostile against Libya and to enable itself, by taking over the Palestinian card, to realize its capitulationist project on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the basis of Reagan's plan.

Like any regime fearing an exposure of its conspiratorial actions and its humiliating political path, stepping down from patriotic commitments and on responding to the aspirations of its peoples, the Jordanian regime adopted its resolution to sever relations with Libya and justified it with allegations and a series of unfounded fabrications with the aim of distracting public opinin away from its plans to co-exist with the Zionist enemy, implement Washington's desire to confirm the legitimacy of Zionist existence in occupied Palestine, and adopt Washington's decision to establish a Jordanian Rapid Deployment Force that would be used in the region for Zionist-American purposes, turning the Jordanian Army into an army of hired mercenaries.

Thus, the Jordanian regime's step came to shuffle the cards and to avoid the continuation of the rising masses' anger in Jordan and the Arab homeland against the regime's stands of treason and its subservient path, implementing colonialist policies and joining the American orbit. If the agent royal regime in Jordan has valued relations with Libya on the basis of blatant attacks and lies, and justified its decision on the basis of the alleged burning of its embassy in Tripoli, the real motives for such a decision have been openly expressed by the official statements delivered by Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat before the Jordanian Parliament, in which he literally said:

"Libya wants to prevent Jordan's contacts with Egypt and thwart the pursuance of its endeavours to realize peace in the region."

Therefore, this is the issue at stake — not that of the embassy or allegations of the its burning and looting. This is the best evidence of the truth of our analysis of events in Jordan, and the Jordanian regime's plan for new conspiracies against the Arab nation and its subservient, languid policies aimed at recognizing the Zionist enemy. The Jamahiriyah took the initiative to expose these and draw the attention of the Arab nation to them, warning the nation against their danger and showing ways to thwart them.

The open, official recognition on the part of a reactionary regime in Amman that Libya is trying to prevent contacts with... the Egyptian regime which recognizes the Zionist enemy and is having strategic relations with it... All this not only justifies the demonstration of the Palestinian masses in Libya and their burning of the Jordanian flag, it further justifies all popular action to retaliate against this regime and make its destiny like that of traitor As-Sadat.

Opposition To 'Strategic Violation' Urged

LD251453 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] This morning, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, summoned the heads of the National Front for steadfastness and confrontation countries' political missions in the Jamahiriyah.

He affirmed to them the need for cohesion among the front's member-countries to face up to the deterioration now taking place in the Arab situation, which is represented in the suspect contacts taking place between the Egyptian regime and some Arab regimes with a view to drawing the Arab nation into capitulation and joining the accords of disgrace, instead of pressuring Egypt into abandoning these humiliating accords. He pointed out that the national front for steadfastness and confrontation must tackle this deterioration, affirming that the front was originally set up to reply to the Egyptian regime's treason. Therefore, the front should take a unified stand against this serious strategic violation.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison asked the brother heads of political missions of national front for steadfastness and confrontation member-countries to inform their governments of what he told them, and report their government's replies to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison as soon as possible.

MAURITANIA

President Announces Support for Iraq in War

LD252208 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The head of state, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, during his meeting this morning with the Iraqi ambassador accredited to our country, announced our country's support for Iraq, and he also expressed his deep concern for the escalation of this armed conflict.

Since the beginning, Mauritania was concerned about the increased danger of this severe war. On every occasion, the Mauritanian officials renewed [words indistinct].

Starting from this principled position, Mauritania blessed and supported the various calls which were made by the OAU, the nonaligned countries, and the UN [words indistinct] in order to find a peaceful solution for this painful conflict. It fills us with great sorrow to realize today that, in contrast to the Iraqi position, Iran until this hour is rejecting all attempts at mediation and negotiation, and by this is causing increasing danger and deterioration of the situation [words indistinct].

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania considers Iran competely responsible for the seriousness of the current situation and calls again on the Iranian leaders to respond to the calls for negotiations which are issued by the Islamic group in order to reach the safe road out of a war which does not serve anybody but the enemies of Islam. [sentence indistinct].

MOROCCO

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives for Visit

LD252038 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi first deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard, arrived a short while ago at the King Mohamed V International Airport on a private visit to Morocco. He is coming from London at the end of his official visit to Britain.

He was welcomed on arrival by Moroccan Crown Prince Moulay Sidi Mohamed and Shaykh Sa'id Suhaym ibn Hamad Al Thani, the brother of the ruler of Qatar and its foreign minister.

Foreign Minister Leaves for OAU Meeting

LD261452 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 26 Feb (MAP) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz has left Morocco for Addis Ababa to attend the 40th session of OAU ministers.

SUDAN

Egypts's Ghali Arrives, Meets With Counterpart

JN251555 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA) — Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, Sudanese minister of foreign affairs, received here this morning Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, within the framework of their continued meetings aimed at coordinating between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the various items on the agenda of the OAU ministerial meeting, which will begin its work in Addis Ababa the day after tomorrow; Monday. The also reviewed the African, Arab and international issues of mutual concern.

During an interview with Egyptian television after the meeting, the foreign minister explained that coordination continues between the two countries, and that the two countries' agreement of viewpoints is not as important as knowing each others' viewpoints.

Regarding the incidents in the southern region and the Libyan role [words indistinct], Mirghani Mubarak asserted Sudan's ability to solve its problems politically and through dialogue. He said that the events that are now taking place in the south are not related to the internal situation in the south. He added that some foreign forces, including Libya, are creating these events. He also reiterated Sudan's ability to solve its problems.

Dr Butrus Ghali arrived in the country this morning en route to Addis Ababa to participate in the OAU ministerial meeting.

TUNISIA

Cameroon's Ahidjo Received by Bourguiba

AB251130 Paris AFP in French 1109 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 25 Feb (AFP) — Former Cameroonian President Ahmadou Ahidjo, one of the three persons being tried since Thursday in Yaounde on charges of "conspiracy to disrupt state security," was received in Tunis on Saturday morning by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, it was announced officially in Tunis.

No details were available on the subject of the discussions which took place at the Carthage presidential palace, in the suburb of Tunis, in the presence of Tunisian Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Mohamed Mzali, and Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi.

The former Cameroonian president voluntarily resigned from his functions in November 1982. He arrived in Tunis recently after spending some time in France.

The former Cameroonian head of state is in Tunisia on a strictly private visit which will not exceed a week, it was announced by an informed Tunisian source. On the occasion of this private visit, he made it a point to pay a courtesy call on the Tunisian president, this source added.

During his stay in Tunis, it is believed that Mr Ahidjo will be the guest of former Mauritanian head of state Mokhtar Ould Daddah, who has been living in Tunisia since he was toppled in 1978. The former Cameroonian head of state is reported to have come to Tunis in order to pay a visit to Mr Ould Daddah.

Jordanian Envoy Meets With Minister Essebsi

JN252009 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis — Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid Essebsi today received Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia, Nabi an-Nimr, who acquainted the Tunisian foreign minister with the details of the recent aggression against thr Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, including the burning of the embassy and exposing the diplomats' lives to danger. He also acquainted him with the Jordanian Government's position on deciding to sever diplomatic and political relations with Libya, especially after the Jordanian Government ascertained that the Libyan authorities were behind the implementation of the plan of aggression against the embassy.

Essebsi and An-Nimr also reviewed developing relations between the two fraternal countries as well as the means of strengthening and promoting them in all fields. The also reviewed developments in the war on the Iraqi-Iranian front, and the need for the Arab countries to fulfill their obligations toward Iraq as approved by the Fes Summit.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Official on Attack Against Ethiopians

GF240718 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Paris, 23 Feb (WAKH) — (Andi Borhan Mikael), member of the Political Bureau of the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front [EPLF] and official in charge of foreign information, today announced that the EPLF forces launched an attack yesterday on the Ethiopian forces' first defense lines northeast of the coast — which extend 50 km from fixed positions.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Paris, the EPLF official said the attack inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment on the Ethiopian forces and that the EPLF now completely controls the positions.

(Andi Borhan Mikael) noted that the attack is part of the EPLF's strategic plan which has enabled it to gain control of the city of Teseney.

KENYA

Government, Tanzania To Strengthen Border Security

EA261608 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Mombasa — Tanzania and Kenya have agreed to begin taking immediate steps to strengthen defense and security along their common border. The agreement was reached over the weekend following a 2-day meeting in Mombasa between senior government officials from both countries.

Reports from the meeting said that the leaders of the Kenyan and Tanzanian delegations signed an agreement on immigration, customs, anti-smuggling measures, illegal hunting, and cattle rustling.

The Tanzanian delegation to the meeting was led by the principal secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ndugu Mallamia, while the Kenyan delegation was headed by the permanent secretary in the Office of the President in charge of security, Mr Joseph Muliro.

Foreign Minister Off to Addis Ababa for OAU Meeting

EA261546 Nairobi KNA in English 1049 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Nairobi, 26 Feb (KNA) — The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, has underscored the importance of maintaining and strengthening the unity of Africa. Mr Mwangale was speaking this morning at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport shortly before leaving for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, heading Kenya's delegation to the 40th regular session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

He expressed optimism that the Council of Ministers meeting would be successful, adding that the decision by Polisario not to attend the session should in no way affect the deliberations.

Also leaving at the same time for the talks, due to start tomorrow, were the foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Dr W.M. Mangwende; foreign minister of Mozambique, Mr Joaquim A. Chissano; and foreign minister of Zambia, Lameck Goma.

Included in the Kenyan delegation are the assistant minister for foreign affairs, Prof Paul Sumbi, and the ministry's permanent secretary, Mr Bethuel Kiplagat.

After attending the OAU talks, Mr Mwangale, accompanied by the other members of the Kenyan delegation will proceed to Djibouti to follow up the establishment of bilateral cooperation between Kenya and Djibouti.

TANZANIA

Further on Visit of Algerian Foreign Minister

Meets With Nyerere

EA242021 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Algeria's minister of foreign affairs, Ndugu Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who is visiting Tanzania at the invitation of his Tanzanian counterpart, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim. A State House statement said the talks focused on the situation in northern Africa, the Middle East, and southern Africa. The leaders also discussed relations between the two countries. The statement said Ndugu Ibrahimi also briefed President Nyerere on the situation in Western Sahara, Chad, and Lebanon.

President Nyerere, who is chairman of the Frontline States for the Liberation of Southern Africa, briefed the Algerian foreign minister on the United States' moves for a settlement of the Namibian independence question and the situation in Angola and Mozambique.

Following his meeting with the president, Ndugu Ibrahimi left Dar es Salaam for Pemba and Zanzibar.

Visits Zanzibar; Meets Mwinyi

EA242153 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Summary] Zanzibar: Algeria says it will help the Government of Zanzibar to revive the economy of the Tanzanian isles. That pledge was made today by visiting Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, when he paid a courtesy call on Zanzibar's interim president. Ali Hassan Mwinyi at State House in Zanzibar.

Mwinyi said Zanzibar's economic problems result from the lack of special markets for cloves. He said Zanzibar has introduced the growing of cardamom as a second major crop in place of cloves.

Mwinyi also called on Algeria to help Zanzibar in improving irrigated agriculture in (?Pemba).

Zanzibar's Mwinyi Blames 'Outsiders' for Problems

EA242057 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Central District: The interim president of Zanzibar, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, has asked the people for vigilance in safeguarding the country so as to frustrate all those desiring to divide us and disrupt the union. He asked the people not to allow their tranquillity to be disturbed by people seeking to serve their own selfish ends. Ndugu Mwinyi, who was addressing veteran founders of the Afro-Shirazi Party, leaders, and others in the Central District at Dunga, said the only remedy for such people is to strengthen the union and love one another so as to deny them any point of infiltration.

The interim president of Zanzibar, who spoke for over an hour on the political activities which brought a political crisis in Zanzibar, said all the problems which emerged appeared more and more like conspiracies concocted by enemies living outside the country. He asked the people to confront these problems so as to overcome any which continue to appear.

In their message to Brother Mwinyi, the leaders and people of the Central District pledged not to allow themselves to be disturbed by a few wicked people intent on destroying our unity and breaking our union. The people said they fully understood the decision to unite Tanganyika and Zanzibar and to build socialism and unity as a fundamental, historic, and immutable decision.

Foreign Minister Leaves for OAU Meeting in Ethiopia

EA261552 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Foreign Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim left Dar es Salaam today for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to attend the 40th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers. Ndugu Salim is leading the Tanzanian delegation, which includes Tanzania's ambassador to Ethiopia, Ndugu Tatunuru, and the director for Africa and the Middle East in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ndugu Raphael Korosso.

The council meeting will discuss the OAU budget for the next financial year.

Ndugu Salim is expected back home on Sunday.

SOMALIA

Delegation Departs for Addis Ababa OAU Meeting

EA242011 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] A SDR delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headed by Miss Fatuma Isaaq Bihi, the Foreign Ministry's African Division's director, left this morning for Addis Ababa.

The SDR delegation will participate in the OAU foreign ministers meeting in Addis Ababa to debate on the organization's budget and other matters pertaining to its administration.

The meeting, held biannually, will commence in Addis Ababa tomorrow, 25 February.

Anti-Government Demonstrations Reported in Hargeysa

EA242106 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Reports reaching us from the capital of the northwest region, Hargeysa, indicate large demonstrations opposing the Barre regime have taken place. The demonstrations, which were organized by the students of Hargeysa and its environs, were timed for 21 February, the day persons in Hargeysa launched a very large demonstration in 1982.

The organizers distributed pamphlets in and around Hargeysa expressing the popular opposition to the dictatorial rule of General Barre and his henchmen.

A strict (?curfew) has been imposed in Hargeysa.

The report says 36 students and 5 teachers were (?arrested) during the demonstrations, and 10 students are being hospitalized from injuries sustained as a result of actions undertaken by General Barre's repressive organizations.

A house-to-house search by the regime continues in Hargeysa, and all the schools have been closed.

CAMEROON

Trial of Anti-Biya Conspirators Begins

AB232125 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The trial of those involved in the attempt to disrupt state security, as disclosed by President Paul Biya on 22 August 1983, began this morning before the Yaounde Military Court. Joseph Marcel Ndi has just returned from the courthouse.

[Begin Ndi recording] Correct. As you mentioned, the trial of those accused of attempting to disrupt state security commenced this morning at 0845 before the Yaounde Military Tribunal meeting at the courthouse, crowded by a large number of persons desiring to attend the trial of those involved in the affair announced on 22 August 1983 by the head of state. Right from the start, the government's adviser on legal affairs called for calm, order, and respect for the state's laws in the proceedings. As you are aware, three perons are standing trial: Major Oumarou Ibrahim, Captain Adamou Salate, and former President Ahmadou Ahidjo. Ibrahim and Salate are accused of subversion, conspiracy to commit murder and revolution, while Ahmadou Ahidjo is accused of subversion and conspiracy to commit murder.

The facts were recalled. Everything was sparked off in the wake of the Cabinet reshuffle of 18 June which former President Ahmadou Ahidjo opposed. He therefore held a meeting with ministers who were natives of the north on 18 June at 1500 at the Lake Residence (Ahidjo's residence in Yaounde]. A second meeting was also held at the residence of the delegate general of the National Gendarmerie. That meeting was attended by the north's elite and members of Parliament. After this President Ahidjo travelled to France and later entrusted a mission to Maj Ibrahim. According to Maj Ibrahim, the mission was, quote, to use all means to wrest power from President Biya — including through physical elimination. [no reference to a closing quote as heard] As you are aware, the mission failed thanks to an informant.

Before the opening of the trial this morning, two lawyers spoke in turn pointing out procedural shortcomings. Mr Yondo, Mr Ahidjo's defense counsel appointed ex-officio, declared himself incompetent to judge because Mr Ahidjo was absent. As for Mr Muna, he disclosed that the accused had rejected any counsel. The trial began with the hearing of Ibrahim and Salate, each of whom immediately pleaded guilty and explained in detail — I will spare you the details — how former President Ahmadou Ahidjo entrusted them with the mission.

As you said, the hearing was suspended at precisely 1200. It will resume at 1500 this afternoon. [end recording]

Ahidjo Death Sentence Called

AB271104 Paris AFP in French 1045 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Yaounde, 27 February (AFP) — The military public prosecutor on Monday in Yaounde called for the death sentence for former Cameroonian President Ahmadou Ahidjo, who is being tried in absentia for "subversion and plotting against state security."

He also called for life imprisonment for Major Ibrahim Oumarou and Captain Adamou Salate. The military public prosecutor also called for the indictment of former Prime Minister Bello Bouba Maigari; former Armed Forces Minister Maikano Abdoulaye; and Ibrahim Wadjiri, former head of the gendarmerie, whom he accused of having tried to foment a plot on 18 June 1983 following a Cabinet reshuffle by President Paul Biya.

Diplomatic Relations With Bulgaria Established

AB242032 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Cameroon and the People's Republic of Bulgaria have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Yaounde today said the decision follows the mutual desire between the two countries to reinforce their friendly relations. Cameroon and Bulgaria, the statement said, wish to consolidate and intensify bilateral cooperation based on the respect for sovereignty, national integrity, equality, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Japanese 900-Million-CFA-Franc 'Gift' Reported

AB260810 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Japan yesterday made a 900-million-CFA-Franc gift to Cameroon. The gift will be used to buy the necessary equipment for the exploitation of subterranian water in north Cameroon, specifically in the Mayo-Loti Division.

CHAD

Minister Denies Rebel Claims on Killing

JN271055 Khartoum SUNA in English 1026 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 27 Feb (SUNA) — Chadian Information Minister Soumaila Mahamat yesterday denied the news issued by the Libyan-backed rebels saying that 80 government soldiers were killed by the rebels. Mr Mahamat dismissed the news as false and unfounded. The Libyan-backed rebels radio had claimed that fighting erupted Sunday in the Chadian District of Ouaddai.

Bardai on 'Severe Blows' Dealt FAN Forces

AB261030 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] In Chad, the gallant National Liberation Army [ANL] commando units continue to deal increasingly severe blows to the imperialist and reactionary forces in the struggle to free our fatherland from foreign occupation. [Words indistinct] in spite of the characteristic acts of provocation and aggression by the

French and Zairian troops, several messages reaching ANL headquarters report the results of various clashes between ANL commando units and the FAN in the center of the country in February. [Passage indistinct] against the French-Zairian-FAN clique.

On 8 February 1984, the ANL clashed with a puppet gang in (?Mangalme), in Ouaddai. The ANL forces lost 3 men while the puppet forces' casualties totaled 12 dead and 53 wounded. Another ANL commando unit carried out a victorious surprise attack in (Djembir) [words indistinct]. The routed enemy left behind (?40) dead and (1,105) wounded, and a considerable quantity of military equipment and ammunition. The ANL suffered two dead and three wounded.

On the same day, the enemy forces attempted to launch a counteroffensive, but were (?crushed) [words indistinct]. In the sector of [name indistinct], there was another clash involving the FAN armed militia. FAN suffered more than 16 wounded, whereas only 3 of our troops were wounded.

The most recent clash took place on 12 February in the same area. The routed enemy army sustained a crushing defeat including 18 dead and several wounded. Two (?trucks), a gun with FAN markings, an automatic pistol, and several other items were recovered in the field. These various clashes, which occurred within the French-Zairian-protected zone, is evidence of the determination of the ANL commando units to defeat the dictator and blood-thirsty master in Ndjamena, who is receiving massive support from French-U.S. imperialism. These victorious attacks prove to France's leftist imperialist government that it can never defeat the Chadian revolution. [words indistinct]

GABON

Bongo Says Documents Indicate Destabilization Plan

AB241832 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Gabonese President Omar Bongo yesterday called on the Gabonese Security Forces to be more vigilant in order to foil a possible attempt to destabilize his regime. The Gabonese head of state, who was addressing national gendarmerie officers holding their biannual study meeting in Libreville, disclosed that a commando group of approximately 30 armed men is now being planned. I am in possession of documents relating to this preparation, he said, without giving any further details.

President Bongo also advised the gendarmes to avoid tribalism, high-handedness, and (?atheism), and asked them to form a united bloc capable of facing the threats to the country's institutions and territorial integrity. The president finally stressed that Gabon, which is (?an independent country), should change the uniform of its gendarmes, which resembles that of French gendarmes, and make it more Gabonese.

ZAIRE

Ties With Tanzania To Be Strengthened

AB232130 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1845 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 22 Feb (AZAP) — First State Commissioner Kengo wa Dondo today received in audience at the Executive Council Building Mr Ndobho, Tanzanian ambassador to Zaire. First State Commissioner wa Dondo expressed the need to develop and strengthen all areas of bilateral cooperation between Dar es Salaam and Kinshasa within the framework of South-South cooperation.

The Tanzanian ambassador, who was meeting for the first time with the first state commissioner, told the press after their talks that Zairian-Tanzanian relations are better today than a few years ago. He stressed the need to strengthen these relations because, he said, Tanzania and Zaire are neighboring countries with large numbers of each other's citizens in their respective countries. The Tanzanian diplomat believes bilateral contacts are necessary to solve the problems facing their peoples. It is within this framework that he disclosed that the Executive Council and Tanzanian Government have authorized the governors of Shaba (Zaire) and Kigoma (Tanzania) to meet very shortly to eliminate the causes hampering the maintenance of good-neighborliness between the two countries. The first state commissioner and Tanzanian ambassador further agreed to use every possible means to reduce, and if possible, eliminate, smuggling at the two countries' border. Zaire uses the Kalemie-Kigoma-Dar es Salaam Road to transport its products.

PRC Military Experts To Leave in November

AB232105 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0755 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Kinshasa, [no date given as received] — Vice Admiral Lomponda wa Botende, secretary of state for national defense and security, received General Zhang Lishun, head of the Chinese Military Mission to Zaire, on Tuesday. Gen Zhang, who was paying a courtesy call on the secretary of state, told his host that a large number of Chinese military experts would return for good to China in November. Both men also discussed all problems touching on Sino-Zairian military cooperation.

GAMBIA

Jawara Austerity Program Devalues Currency

AB250859 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Banjul, Feb 25 (AFP) — Gambian head of state Sir Dawda Jawara has announced a 25-percent currency devaluation as part of the government's austerity program, an official radio broadcast told the nation Friday.

Under the same program, prices of consumer goods, including rice, will be increased, official trips abroad will be restricted, and bank interest rates will go up two percent.

GHANA

Diplomatic Corps Informed of Food Shortage

AB241950 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, this morning launched a National Emergency Food Program for 1984 at a meeting with members of the diplomatic corps in Accra. He praised the international community's response to Ghana's appeal in April last year for assistance to overcome the chronic food shortage caused by drought, bushfires, and pressure from returnees. Mr Obeng noted that the situation this year is not different from last year's.

The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, disclosed that food production in Ghana in 1983-84 fell below expectations, and the country faces a food crisis during the 8-month period, from this month to September. Dr Botchway said, for bare survival, it is estimated that the country will require at least 620,000 metric tons of cereal. This deficit will be partly met by 179,000 metric tons from local production, 80 [number as heard] metric tons of government commercial imports, and pledged aid of 104,000 metric tons. This leaves a further 257,000 metric tons to be provided for.

Dr Botchway said the aim of the meeting with the diplomats is to formally inform them of the critical food situation during this lean season, and to solicit their assistance to meet the shortfall. He believed that the diplomats appreciate the efforts that the PNDC is making to remedy the situation. In spite of the country's foreign exchange constraints, the government is planning to import 80,000 metric tons of cereal at a cost of some 5 million cedis. Also from the economic recovery program priority, attention has been given to the production of cereal crops, particularly maize and rice. Concrete steps are being taken to provide the necessary inputs to the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned organizations.

Dr Botchway said the action program to receive and distribute the expected food aid which was drawn up for the FAO-sponsored food relief exercise has been updated. He gave the assurance that the PNDC has made adequate preparations for storage and distribution. Government will, however, welcome any contribution, material or otherwise, that will help improve the logistical support for receiving and distributing the expected food aid to needy areas and groups. Dr Botchway announced that a National Coordination Committee has been established for this exercise, and stands ready to work very closely with donor communities.

Canada's Pepin Arrives for 4-Day Official Visit

AB260805 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The Canadian minister for external relations [title as heard], Mr Jean-Luc Pepin, is in Ghana for a 4-day official visit. He told newsmen on arrival in Accra that his visit is to strengthen the long-standing and close bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to Mr Pepin, he will review the entire range of bilateral relations, including development cooperation in the mining, oil, and forestry sectors. On the current food situation in Ghana, he said Canada would assess it and find out how best it can offer a helping hand.

Mr Pepin announced that Canada has flown in about 2,000 doses of vaccine to help fight the cerebrospinal meningitis disease which has broken out in parts of the Northern and Upper Regions.

In addition to his talks with government officials, the minister will tour the oil-drilling ship of (Petro) Canada International Assistance Corporation, which is carrying out exploration exercises for oil and gas off the shores of western Ghana.

Mr Pepin was greeted on arrival by the secretary for the interior, Mr Kofi Djin.

Hints At Aid Increase

AB270725 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The visiting Canadian minister for external relations [title as heard], Mr Jean-Luc Pepin, yesterday toured the Pong and Akosombo Dams to have a first-hand look at the effect of the drought on the country which has led to power cuts in Ghana, Togo, and Benin. He was accompanied by the secretary for fuel and power, Mr Appiah Korang.

Mr Pepin also visited the Volta River Authority [VRA] Training School at Akuse. There are eight Canadian experts at the center. Canadian expertise has been significant in the construction, maintenance, and training for the VRA, and for the construction of particular aspects of the Akosombo and Pong Dams. Mr Pepin later hinted that this year there will be an increase in Canadian assistance to Ghana form $11 million last year to $63 million this year. This includes $5 million in emergency food aid.

Accra Signs Cultural Cooperation Accord With PRC

AB241954 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Ghana and the People's Republic of China today signed an operational program on cultural cooperation between them. The secretary for culture and tourism, Mr Asudu Yirenkyi, signed for Ghana while the Chinese ambassador in Ghana, Mr Jia Huaiji, signed for his country.

Under the program, China and Ghana are to increase cultural ties within the next 2 years. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Asudu Yirenkyi said the main purpose for signing such an agreement with foreign countries is to foster, strengthen, and promote cultural relations. He said it is mainly through cultural exchange programs that countries get to know more about the cultures of each other. Mr Asudu Yirenkyi was grateful to China for declaring her readiness to offer an amount of $15 million to reactivate some projects in Ghana. He said the signing of the cultural exchange program therefore seeks to concretize the relationship between the two countries.

The Chinese ambassador said his country and Ghana have the same historical (?past). Mr Jia Huaiji said China is prepared to assist Ghana any time there is the need.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet, Ghanaian Envoy Exchange Speeches

AB241244 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 24 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpts] Four new ambassadors yesterday presented their credentials to the head of state, President Houphouet-Boigny. They are: Colonel Daniel Prah of the Republic of Ghana; Frederic Assomption Korsaga of the Republic of Upper Volta; Bell John Peter of Canada; and Zhu Chengcai of the PRC.

In his address, the Ghanaian ambassador said: Our two countries share the bonds of geography, history, culture, and tradition.

Mr President, today I have the honor, pleasure, and privilege to present to you the credentials by which I am accredited to the Republic of Ivory Coast as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana.

I am convinced that the Ivory Coast and Ghana, which are two major cocoa producers, can together influence the upcoming international negotiations.

If the Ivory Coast and Ghana continue to undertake common actions in their well-understood interests, and participate in regional projects along with other countries, we will truly eradicate the artificial barriers which separate us.

In his reply, the head of state said: The Ivory Coast and Ghana must remain united in the defense of just causes.

Mr Ambassador, I am very pleased to welcome you and to receive the letters by which you are accredited to the Ivory Coast.

Our cooperation consists first of all in working together to secure for our respective peoples continued growth through joint actions, economic and technical exchanges, and a better coordination of our investment projects.

But this is not enough in an Africa constantly threatened by upheavals and conflicts, the disastrous consequences of which you have been able to assess in the field during your career.

Ghana and the Ivory Coast, which are both peace-loving countries, must remain united in the defense of just causes and in the quest for peaceful solutions. Even if Africa enjoys peace, it will continue to require all of its energies to fight disease, ignorance, and desert encroachment.

It is painful to think of all the blood shed and riches wasted in fratricidal struggles for the sake of illusory ambitions covertly entertained by foreign powers.

Minister Brings Sankara Message to Houphouet

AB260830 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Nongma Ernest Ouedraogo, Upper Volta's minister of the interior, acting for the minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Abidjan on Thursday, 23 February 1984, for a working visit with the Ivorian minister of foreign affairs. He was received in audience yesterday by the head of state, His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, to whom he delivered a message from President Thomas Sankara. Their discussions, which took place in the presence of Simeon Ake, minister of foreign affairs, centered on issues of common interest and international cooperation.

LIBERIA

Witness on Coup Plan To Blow Up Executive Mansion

AB260620 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] One of the personal witnesses in the second phase of the coup trial involving the alleged plotters told the Special Military Tribunal that some officials in Nimba County supplied explosives to blow up the Executive Mansion. Army Private Paul Toure, who did not name the officials, said the explosives were to be used by a gang in Monrovia to attack the Executive Mansion and other strategic areas.

Mr Toure, whose testimony lasted for over 6 hours, said the explosives were transported from Nimba County by Army Captain Acquah Dollo and 2d Lieutenant Victor Tupah to the home of Major Kolonko Luo. The witness, who admitted taking part in the plot to overthrow the People's Redemption Council [PRC] government, said the raid in (Njekepa) last November was intended to attract the government's attention to that part of the country, while giving the plotters in Monrovia the chance to attack the Executive Mansion. State witness Paul Toure told the Special Military Tribunal that after the head of state placed a ban on government officials visiting former Commanding General Quiwonkpa, the alleged coup plotters were in a habit of having secret meetings at night. He said that all of the accused were aware of the plot to overthrow the PRC government.

NIGER

Kountche Receives Cheysson During Stopover

AB260745 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The head of state, General Seyni Kountche, granted audience yesterday afternoon to Claude Cheysson, the French external relations minister, who was on a short stopover on his way from Lagos. Present at the audience were our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ide Oumarou, and French Ambassador to Niger Maurice Courage. Following the audience, the French minister stated that he had examined with President Kountche issues of bilateral and subregional interest.

NIGERIA

Further on Visit of France's Cheysson

Arrival Remarks Noted

LD241633 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] An important French visit to Africa is taking place with the commencement today of Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson's working visit to Lagos. He was received this morning by head of state General Buhari. This is the first time a French minister has been to Nigeria since the change of government in France nearly 3 years ago, and it will, naturally, be the first contact at this level between the two countries since the military's return to power in Lagos 2 months ago. Cheysson expresses the importance of his visit better than anyone else:

[Begin Cheysson recording] Nigeria is the largest country in Africa; it has economic wealth, prestige, and authority which extend beyond Africa. We are not just interested in the banking aspect; speaking with Nigeria is important to us. We have many problems to discuss together. It is an oil-producing country, a country with close links to the United States on whom, in the long run, possible solutions on the level of the Third World's economic crisis depend. Nigeria, as far as we are concerned, is an essential partner in this field. We shall also be talking about African problems, but we have to bear in mind that Nigeria is African and we are not. It is obvious that we shall be talking about Chad, and that in a certain way, on this level — which is only one part of my visit   this visit to Lagos concludes my round trip of Ndjamena, Addis Ababa, and Tripoli. [end recording]

Meets Buhari; Discusses Africa

AB241518 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today received in audience at Dodan Barracks the visiting French foreign minister, Mr Claude Cheysson. Exchanging views with the minister, the head of state expressed the hope that the economic, cultural, and diplomatic relations between Nigeria and France will be maintained and promoted. On the situation in Chad, the head of state and the minister agreed that the only solution rested on negotiations among the various warring factions under the auspices of the OAU. Mr Cheysson told his interlocutors that France favors an African solution, even a regional one, and that his army will remain in Chad as long as Libya refuses to withdraw from northern Chad. A Radio Nigeria Dodan Barracks correspondent said the situation in Western Sahara, South Africa, and the issue of the new international economic order were some of the matters discussed.

Earlier, Mr Cheysson had delivered a special message from President Mitterrand to General Buhari. In the note, the French leader expressed the desire of his government to maintain the good relations existing between Nigeria and France. He stated that this was because Nigeria's influence was needed in international politics, especially in African affairs.

The French foreign minister continued his talks in Lagos today with his Nigerian counterpart, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, on African and the world situation.

Chadian Embassy Supports Jallud Visit Communique

AB242045 Paris AFP in French 1836 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, 24 Feb (AFP) — In a statement issued today in Lagos, the Chadian Embassy in Lagos expresses satisfaction with the contents of the joint Nigerian-Libyan communique issued yesterday in Lagos at the conclusion of Libyan Prime Minister Major Jallud's 2-day visit to Nigeria.

In the statement which was presented to AFP, the embassy congratulates the Nigerian Federal Military Government for not "playing Libya's game." According to the embassy, the "Libyan game" is meant to deny the presence of Libyan troops in northern Chad and to make the Nigerians condemn the presence of French troops "in Chad at the request of the legitimate Chadian Government which is recognized by the OAU and United Nations." The joint communique, which was signed yesterday, calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Chad and national reconciliation under the auspices of the OAU.

The Chadian Embassy recalls that its country's position has always been that of national reconciliation, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Eyadema Message Expresses Support for FMG

AB250830 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Togo has expressed her support for the Federal Military Government [FMG]. In a message delivered today to the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, the Togolese leader, President Gnassingbe Eyadema, called for closer cooperation between his country and Nigeria in the areas of regional security and economy. The message was delivered by a Togolese delegation led by that country's foreign minister, Anani Akakpo-Ahianyo.

In his reply, Maj Gen Buhari assured the Togolese delegation that Nigeria would examine the proposals of that country and take action in the interest of the region.

Idiagbon To Pay Official Visit to Saudi Arabia

AB241217 Lagos NAN in English 1155 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 24 (NAN) — The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brig Tunde Idiagbon, is expected to leave Lagos tomorrow for a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.

A programme of the visit, released last night at Dodan Barracks, shows that Brig Idiagbon will deliver a special message from the head of the Federal Military Government, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, to the Saudi Monarch, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He is also expected to hold discussions with Saudi Arabian officials. Brig Idiagbon will be accompanied on the visit by the governor of the Central Bank, Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir; the permanent secretary, Ministry of Finance, Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji; some officials of the Supreme Headquarters, and a grand khadi, Alhaji Abubakar Gummi.

State Governor Directive on Political Detentions

AB241951 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] In Plateau State, political detainees found to have mismanaged public funds are to be imprisoned. The military governor of the state, Navy Captain Samuel Atukum, gave the directive when he visited the Federal Prisons in Jos during his familiarization tour of federal establishments in the state capital. He said he had also directed the Immigration Department to send all illegal aliens to prison as a temporary measure.

Daily Raps Calls for Returning Power to Civilians

AB241952 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *THE NIGERIAN OBSERVER* assesses calls by some Nigerians that the military administration should hand over power to the civilians. The paper, while admitting that there is a provision for individual freedom of speech, totally condemns such calls without the Supreme Military Council successfully concluding its assignment.

SIERRA LEONE

Student Leader Meets With Inquiry Commission

AB241036 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Freetown, Feb 24 (AFP) — A student union leader came out of 40 days of hiding Thursday to give evidence to a commission of inquiry into the causes of frequent disturbances at Sierra Leone's Fourah Bay College (FBC) during the past four years. Students' Union President Daniel Yamba Kamara, 26, who had been given safe conduct by the commission, asked its chairman, Justice Kutubu, to interecede with President Siaka Stevens for the release of students arrested after the January 12 demonstrations and disturbances which led to the closure of the college. One student who was acquitted of a charge of riotous conduct by a Magistrate's Court is still being held in detention, while another is facing charges of malicious damage to the official car of Second Vice President Alusine Kamara-Taylor.

Mr Kamara also congratulated the government for setting up the commission of inquiry, which students had always wanted to look into what he called the "evil machinations of the university administration."

Mr Kamara said the demonstrations were "to condemn the present economic situation and to awaken national interest in the university's situation." They were spontaneous and took place after rumours that at the end of the convention of the ruling All People's Congress taking place on that day fuel prices would be increased.

The convention was also thought to be pressing for an increase in ministerial portfolios and the naming of Mr Stevens as president for life, Mr Kamara said.

Students felt that these plans would lead to further government expenses, and in the light of the country's economic situation, there was a move by students to condemn them. Mr Kamara said that he had been trying to rectify six years of no communication between the college and the government. The students were greatly disappointed that they had not been invited to send a representative to the convention and participate in discussing the country's economic plight.

"It is unfortunate that government closed the college; none of the students anticipated riots of that nature," the student leader added. He asserted that fighting had already started in Freetown before the students joined in.

TOGO

Former French President Giscard d'Estaing Arrives

AB242050 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing arrived in Lome late this afternoon for a 4-day visit to Togo. The special plane that brought Giscard d'Estaing landed at 1740 GMT at the Lome Tokoin International Airport. The former French president was met on arrival at the airport by Political Bureau Member and Interior Minister Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle, who was accompanied by Minister Delegate to the Presidency of the Republic in Charge of Information, Posts, and Telecommunications Gbegnon Amegboh; Togolese People's Rally Administrative Secretary Yao Kolani Eklou; Lome Mayor Kokou Fourn; and French Ambassador to Togo Michel Chatelais.

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister On Relations With RSA, U.S.

MB260822 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Paulo Jorge, Angolan foreign minister, has said that the foreign policy of the People's Republic of Angola was aimed at ensuring peace in southern Africa and solving the serious problems of the region, particularly the Namibian issue.

Commenting on the recent talks between Angola, the United States and South Africa, Comrade Jorge said that peace in southern Africa could only be achieved after independence is granted Namibia, which is illegally occupied by the Pretoria regime. The Angolan foreign minister, who was giving an interview to the French newspaper *LIBERATION*, once again reiterated the solidarity of the Angolan people with SWAPO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people. The fact that South Africa is holding talks with Angola and Mozambique does not in itself mean that Pretoria has ceased to be a source of danger for the Frontline States, Comrade Paulo Jorge emphasized. He added that in the talks, the People's Republic of Angola demanded that the United States give its assurance that South Africa would observe its pledges. During the interview, the Angolan foreign minister demanded an end to subversive acts being carried out against Angola by the racist Pretoria regime from Namibia, and through the infiltration into Angolan territory of terrorist bands of the UNITA puppet group.

The Angolan Government position on the UNITA puppets is unequivocal and unchangeable, the Angolan foreign minister said. He added: We would never accept any negotiations or reconciliation with this terrorist organization.

Replying to a question on the prospects of relations between Angola and the United States, Comrade Paulo Jorge noted that it was the U.S. side alone which was hindering their normalization.

Angolan Sources Cannot Confirm SWAPO Movements

LD242041 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Official Angolan sources said today that they could not confirm the truth of reports alleging that SWAPO forces are crossing the border into Namibia from Angola, because the border areas continue to be occupied by the South African Army.

The statement was in response to a request from the Angolan news agency ANGOP for comment on reports from South Africa that SWAPO forces were crossing into Namibia from Angola.

The official Angolan sources stressed that even if the said reports are true, this doesn't mean that Angola is in any way in breach of its undertakings which it intends to scrupulously observe. They added that any infiltrations can only occur in those areas of Angola still occupied by South African forces.

It will be recalled that the South African Government today requested an urgent meeting of the recently created commission to supervise the truce between Angola and South Africa. The meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow in southern Angola. South Africa alleges that hundreds of SWAPO guerrillas are preparing to enter Namibia from southern Angola.

LESOTHO

Report on RSA Talks Dismissed as 'Speculation'

MB261210 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has today dismissed as sheer speculation a report by the BBC that the two foreign ministers of Lesotho and South Africa had discussed the signing of a nonaggression pact during their meeting in Johannesburg yesterday.

The spokesman reiterated that the talks, as officially reported by both Maseru and Pretoria at the end of the meeting, were held, and I quote, to discuss the implications of the introduction of the new South African tax in its legislation on Lesotho citizens working in South Africa as well as security and other matters of interest to both countries. The two ministers agreed that the discussions on these subjects be continued at all appropriate levels, unquote.

Matters of security interest between the two governments have always been an ongoing process as is universally characteristic of any states that share common borders. Lesotho has always asserted that it has no hostile intentions against anyone, and that it is committed to the spirit of nonaggression between herself and her neighbors. It is this spirit which is sacrosanct in the context of interstate relations. Lesotho considers nonaggression pacts as more appropriate to the countries that have a common legacy of hostilities. It is not the situation in this case.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Says ANC Must Talk With RSA

MB271325 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The outlawed ANC is only welcome in Mozambique if it accepts negotiations with South Africa. That is the word from Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, who has given the first details of a new relationship between his country and the ANC. Last week, talks between South Africa and Mozambique paved the way to a security agreement due to be signed by the two countries. No details of the proposed agreement were released. Now Chissano says his government made it clear to South Africa with the talks that Maputo will continue to support the struggle against apartheid, but only on a diplomatic basis. In Chissano words, there should be no violence.

Zambian Delegation Arrives for Joint Meeting

MB261136 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] A Zambian delegation arrived in Maputo last evening to take part in the seventh session of the Zambia-Mozambique Joint Commission. The visiting delegation is headed by Henry Meebelo, the planning minister, who is the Zambian chairman of the joint commission. The delegation also includes (Frederick Chuula), the minister of power, transport and communications, and H.Y. Mwale, the minister of public works, among other officials.

The Zambian delegation was received at Maputo airport by Jose Carlos Lobo, minister of mineral resources, and Mozambique chairman of the joint commission. A National Planning Commission source informed Radio Mozambique that the meeting of the Mozambique-Zambia joint commission will begin Tuesday, after preliminary talks and consultations between the two delegations. According to the same source, the seventh session of Mozambique-Zambia Joint Commission will review the implementation cooperation agreements reached at the previous session in 1981, as well as to draft a plan of action for 1984-85.

USSR, U.S. Contribute Further Flood Aid

MB251155 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in Maputo has disclosed that all Soviet citizens in our country will take part in solidarity activities with the victims of the recent natural disasters which hit southern Mozambique. The source added that the Soviet citizens would contribute money in both national and convertible currency. The Soviet Embassy pointed out that a donation of 1,000 blankets and 20 large tents contributed by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions was expected in Mozambique soon. The USSR is also combining efforts to speed up the arrival into the country of a consignment of 4,000 metric tons of fish.

Also in the context of solidarity with the victims of the natural disaster, a source coordinating the activities of U.S. foreign aid workers in Maputo said that contacts with other solidarity groups in the United States made possible a contribution of $20,000. The money will be used to acquire agricultural implements which will subsequently be distributed to those affected by the floods. The same source added that other nongovernmental organizations in the United States were presently being contacted to obtain more donations for the same purpose.

NAMIBIA

Multiparty Conference Committed to Independence

MB241938 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Multiparty Conference on South-West Africa has committed itself to leading the territory to a nationally and internationally acceptable independence, and to drafting a permanent constitution within the framework of Phase One of the Western Settlement Plan. Economic order will be created and a foreign policy be pursued based on independence and peaceful coexistence with other countries. The conference expressed the hope that relations between South Africa and Angola would remain effective so that negotiations on the wider South-West African issues might be possible. In another statement, the conference said talks were being planned with groups involved in the South-West African issue. Such talks would include appeals for the release of political prisoners.

Conference Plans Kaunda Meeting

MB271217 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Multiparty Conference in South-West Africa is planning an early meeting with President Kaunda, who has made a request to this effect. A conference spokesman, Dr Lucas de Vries, says that at the recent talks in Lusaka between South Africa, Angola, and the United States, President Kaunda indicated that he wished to meet the leaders of the conference. The meeting, said Dr de Vries, would form part of the conference's contact with parties involved in the South-West Africa question. The conference secretariat, moreover, hoped to get in touch with representatives of the Western Contact Group in South Africa, but this meeting was not likely to take place before 12 March.

Nujoma Says Cease-Fires Will Not End Struggle

MB251007 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 24 Feb 84

["News in Depth" program]

[Text] In Ottawa, the president of SWAPO of Namibia, Comrade Sam Nujoma, said that racist South Africa's new security agreement with Angola and Mozambique is not [word indistinct] to the People's Liberation Army of Namibia. He further said that SWAPO is fighting against racist South Africa for control of the former German colony of Namibia, which Pretoria has ruled in defiance of the UN resolution that orders the regime of occupation to withdraw. Comrade Nujoma also said that even though racist South Africa is seeking to render the ANC of South Africa and SWAPO (?impotent) by denying them friendship links in neighboring countries through negotiated security agreements with Mozambique and Angola which, he said, were not effective.

The struggle for liberation of Namibia started in 1960, before Mozambique and Angola achieved independence. The people of Namibia are still oppressed and will keep struggling, said the president of SWAPO. The president also said that racist Pretoria is feeling the sting of isolation in the international field, and there is a crisis in South Africa, for people are asking why their sons are dying in Namibia. Comrade President Nujoma added that racist South African troops have now started to pull out of Angola; therefore, the next step should be a cease-fire between SWAPO and Pretoria, followed by the implementation of the UN resolution calling for the decolonization of Namibia. The president stressed the importance of free, fair, and democratic elections, and pledged that SWAPO will keep fighting if there is not proportional representation.

Before his current visit to Canada and the United States, President Sam Nujoma paid a courtesy visit to Italy, France, and Britain. In Paris, he met the French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, and the West German foreign minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher. In London, he held talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British secretary for foreign affairs. Later, the president visited the Soviet Union, where he attended the funeral of the late president of the Soviet Union and the chairman of the Presidium of the Soviet Union, and the secretary general of the Central Committee of Soviet Union and member of the Politburo, Comrade Yuriy Andropov.

SWAPO Official Affirms Struggle To Continue

MB270721 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0659 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 27, (SAPA) — SWAPO was ready to sign a cease-fire with South Africa at any time, but until that happened, SWAPO would continue fighting in SWA/Namibia, the organisation's secretary for publicity and information, Mr Hidipo Hamutenya, said in Lusaka.

According to a report published by *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* in Windhoek today, Mr Hamutenya said he was aware of the meeting on Saturday of the joint South African-Angolan monitoring commission, but his information was limited to what he had read in newspapers.

The meeting was called after the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had issued a statement saying that about 800 SWAPO armed insurgents were on their way to SWA/Namibia from southern Angola. He said 200 insurgents had already crossed into the territory.

Mr Hamutenya said there was no war between South Africa and Angola, "although parts of Angolan territory are occupied by South African forces. There can be no talk of a cease-fire agreement between South Africa and Angola — merely a cessation of South African attacks against Angola.

"As far as South Africa and SWAPO are concerned, there has been a war for 18 years. SWAPO inside Namibia will continue to struggle until a cease-fire agreement has been signed with South Africa."

Mr Hamutenya is regarded in some circles as the most senior leader in the SWAPO hierarchy after its president, Mr Sam Nujoma.

Over 100 SWAPO Military Men Return Under Amnesty

MB271158 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Close to 120 members of SWAPO's military wing have given themselves up at various places in the operational area since an offer of amnesty was made to them 4 years ago. About 30 women and children have returned together with the SWAPO members to South-West Africa, where they have been resettled.

The secretary of justice in South-West Africa, Mr Hendrik Taljaard, says the amnesty offer has been extended on several occasions in terms of Proclamation AG-3. It is to be reviewed once again in May.

SOUTH AFRICA

Contacts, Reaction to Reported SWAPO Moves

Commission Meets at Botha's Behest

MB260700 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] It was reported yesterday that the second meeting of the joint South African-Angolan commission on the disengagement of South African troops in southern Angola had been held at Cuvelai, in Angola. South Africa's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, called for an urgent meeting of the commission when it was reported that about 800 SWAPO terrorists were moving towards Angola and towards the South-West Africa-Namibia border [as heard], and that 200 had crossed into the territory already.

Our correspondent in Windhoek reports that the head of the American office opened in the city to monitor the disengagement process, Mr Bill Twadell has confirmed that the meeting took place at Cuvelai yesterday. He was not prepared to say what the discussion was about.

R. Botha on Situation

MB270620 Johannesburg Domestic in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] South Africa and Angola have again reached agreement on the provisions of this month's Lusaka treaty, and have voiced their concern about SWAPO's activities on the South-West African-Angolan border. The South African-Angolan joint commission has also made practical arrangements regarding the Lusaka agreement, so that effective monitoring of operations can begin on 1 March.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said that the chief of the Army, General Jan Geldenhuis, and a senior official of his department, Mr Dave Steward, had expressed their concern about the recent SWAPO activities during a meeting of the joint commission at Cuvelai, in southern Angola, on Saturday. Mr Botha told our political news staff last night that the concern was expressed on the instruction of the South African Government. Gen Geldenhuis and Mr Steward also stressed that the activities were contrary to the letter and spirit of the Lusaka agreement. Mr Botha said that the Angolan representative had also expressed his government's concern about the SWAPO activities.

The Angolan Government undertook to consider ways and means of giving effect to the provisions of the Lusaka agreement. The delegations from South Africa and Angola both reaffirmed their commitment to consolidating the progress which was achieved in Lusaka. Mr Botha said after the departure of Gen Geldenhuis and Mr Steward from the talks, the joint commission had made practical arrangements regarding aspects of the implementation of the agreement with a view to the start of effective monitoring of operations on 1 March.

Commission Discusses SWAPO Advance

MB260800 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English
26 Feb 84 pp 1,2

[By Brian Pottinger]

[Excerpts] Out-of-control SWAPO fighters — probably beyond the reach of their command headquarters — yesterday posed the gravest threat so far to the infant peace agreement forged between Angola and South Africa. While no one could say with certainty under whose order they were marching, South African intelligence estimated that as many as 800 insurgents were moving southwards through the bush near the Namibia border.

Yesterday, the newly established South African-Angolan joint monitoring commission met in emergency session to deal with the new threat to peace. They assembled in Cuvelai, the small, battered town in southern Angola which was the scene of a bloody battle between SWAPO and security forces only a few weeks ago.

In some government circles there was speculation that the advancing SWAPO units consisted of dissidents who were now operating under direct orders from the Soviet Union bent on scuppering the fragile peace initiatives. But other sources said the advancing force may consist of regular SWAPO units who had simply become isolated in the vast and empty southern Angolan bush, far from their headquarters and unaware of fast-moving events on the diplomatic front.

Another possibility is that the SWAPO units are on a last-ditch drive to penetrate Namibia so that they can go to ground there before their Angolan sanctuaries are sewn up by the peace accord. Although pledged not to hamper the South African-Angolan accord, the leader of SWAPO, Mr Sam Nujoma, has made it clear that his forces are prepared to continue waging the war inside Namibia until there is a firm commitment to implement UN Resolution 435.

A further complicating factor in the delicately balanced situation is the possibility that UNITA elements may be trying to take advantage of the South African withdrawal southwards by moving into the vacated terrain.

The monitoring commission's second meeting was originally scheduled for March 1, but the new reports of SWAPO insurgency — denied by Mr Nujoma — led to yesterday's urgent meeting.

Foreign observers remain hopeful because the principal players in the disengagement operation — South Africa and Angola — have both signalled their determination to accept each others' bona fides, and to continue with the peace initiative. At the breakthrough Lusaka talks 10 days ago, the South African delegation presented precise intelligence maps showing the southward movement of SWAPO columns along four main routes. At the time their strength was estimated at 400 men travelling in groups of various strengths.

The South African delegation accepted that the Angolan Government could not be expected to exercise control over SWAPO forces, which had already moved into the cordon sanitaire which South African special forces have unofficially been maintaining in southern Angola since 1981. At the same time, say informed sources, it was also tacticly understood by both parties that if SWAPO forces were encountered in southern Angola by disengaging South African security forces, they would be attacked in terms of the understanding that SWAPO would be prevented from taking advantage of the disengagement. The latest South African intelligence assessments of the SWAPO force — up to 800 men with as many as 200 already inside northern Namibia — have therefore increased the urgency of the disengagement talks. Deep concern exists in government circles that if the SWAPO units succeed in penetrating northern Namibia and in attacking civilian targets, there could be backlash against the settlement drive.

Meanwhile, indications are that the two principal parties are going ahead with the disengagement programme which — if no hitches are encountered — would take about five weeks. Various Angolan towns have been identified as meeting places at weekly intervals for the joint monitoring commission. The northernmost point will be Cuvelai, the southernmost one will be Ongiva. Meanwhile, the Mozambique initiative is smoothly on track. At the historic Maputo talks on Monday, the South African Government presented a set of proposals covering security arrangements between the two countries.

A Mozambique response is expected soon, and there is speculation that the parties may agree to two documents — a basic agreement of principles which could serve as a model for other inter-state relations, and a second more detailed agreement dealing specifically with the implementation of the security arrangement between South Africa and Mozambique.

Prospects of a summit meeting between Prime Minister P.W. Botha and President Samora Machel — probably in Lisbon, and possibly within days — remain good.

Wife of Jailed ANC Leader Gets 2-Year Prison Term

MB242015 Umtata Capital Radio in English 2000 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Text] A political leader will spend 2 years in jail for furthering the aims of the banned ANC. United Democratic Front and Federation of South African Women's President, Albertina Sisulu, was sentenced to 2 years in jail today in the Krugersdorp Regional Court. A further 2 years in jail has been suspended for 5 years. Soweto school teacher (Tami Mali), who stood trial with her, was sentenced to 5 years in jail. Both pleaded not guilty. Sisulu and (Mali) were charged with singing ANC songs, distributing ANC pamphlets and stickers, displaying the ANC flag, and praising the banned organization at the funeral of a political leader a year ago. Counsel for the defense has applied for leave to appeal. Sisulu is the wife of jailed ANC leader Walter Sisulu, who is serving a life sentence.

SWAZILAND

Dlamini, Chissano Comment on RSA-Maputo Pact

MB270829 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 27 Feb 84 p 1

[By Observer reporter]

[Text] Swaziland has described the proposed peace pact between South Africa and Mozambique as a sign that southern African countries were at last seeking peace. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, told *THE OBSERVER* at the weekend that Swaziland fully supports the joint venture because no one at this time wanted war.

He said: "There is no doubt that the leaders of those countries have shown they are peace lovers. They are doing this not only for southern African countries."

Mr Dlamini was speaking at the airport on Saturday where he had come to bid a farewell to his Mozambique counterpart, Mr Joaquim Chissano, who was passing through the country on his way to attend the budget session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Ethiopia.

Mr Dlamini said he will not attend the session because of urgent demands in Swaziland, but said since Mr Chissano was there, the Kingdom would be assured of representation.

Mr Chissano said his country was very rich and the only thing needed was peace.

Asked if the pact would draw his country further from the Russians, Mr Chissano said: "The Soviet Union is one of our best friends. We even sent a representation to the funeral of their late president, Mr Yuriy Andropov. "But, we laid no conditions when we asked for their assistance during the struggle, since we are independent," he said.

"We will be neglecting no one by the talks, but promoting peace. The direction to which our country must take is not in the hands of anyone but the people of Mozambique," he said.

Asked if the pact meant Mozambique would not support the armed struggle by the African National Congress, which is fighting against the present SA Administration, Mr Chissano said: "My country will not be swayed from abhorring the fight against apartheid, which is a crime against humanity. We have made this clear to the South African authorities when the peace proposal was made. We will continue to support the struggle, but we will lend a hand only on a diplomatic basis. There should be no violence."

"Apartheid is responsible for the destabilization of southern African countries. We fully support the struggle carried by the people of Namibia and southern African people fighting against racial discrimination. We have put it clear to the SA Administration.

"We are opposed to the struggle if it involves the use of force."

He said it was up to the ANC to stay in his country if they accept the proposal of peaceful negotiations with the SA regime.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Urges Changes in RSA Internal Policies

MB251234 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has said that recent developments in the Southern African region between the Governments of South Africa and the Frontline States should be pursued to their logical conclusion. Dr Kaunda, who was speaking in a telephone interview with Cliff Saunders of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, said South Africa should be praised for the very positive steps she took to withdraw from southern Angola, and which move has culminated in talks between the two governments. But President Kaunda emphasized that the region would like to see South Africa adjust its policies, especially apartheid, so that she could join the rest of Africa in her development efforts.

He said that in the present initiatives, South Africa's internal policies appeared to be a major stumbling block to the normalization of relations with countries in the region. President Kaunda said as much as the countries in the reigon would like to see South Africa participate in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, and the Organization of African Unity, this could not be achieved unless South Africa readjusts her self-imposed unpalatable policies.

ZIMBABWE

U.S. Aid Cuts Affect Currency Allocations

MB270732 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The deputy minister of trade and commerce, Mr John Landau, says U.S. aid reduction has affected foreign currency allocation. Speaking on a Zimbabwe television program, "The Nation", yesterday, Mr Landau described the American decision as unfortunate. The deputy minister told Zimbabweans to prepare for price increases of certain commodities soon. He said for different businesses to remain viable, the government has to ensure that they make a profit, and in the light of various problems, price increases are sometimes inevitable. Mr Landau expressed government concern about inflation, which he said is slightly more than 17 percent for urban dwellers, and less than 34 percent for people in the communal lands.

Visiting Tanzanian Minister Calls on Mugabe

MB231331 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The visiting Tanzanian minister of state for capital development, Comrade Samuel Sitta, today paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, at his office in Hilton Building. Comrade Sitta is in the country to discuss the possibility of Tanzania buying materials for the planned new Tanzanian state capital at Doduma. The first consignment of the building materials worth about 30,000 dollars is expected to arrive in Tanzania early next week.

Mugabe Says Party Support Key To Civil Employment

MB260646 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the forthcoming ZANU-PF Party Congress should consider issues of national importance and should not be used as a platform for standing for two positions within the party.

Comrade Mugabe told the Manikaland Provincial Youth League in Mutare yesterday that the congress will discuss issues such as education and employment, and make recommendations which will be forwarded to the Central Committee for further consideration.

Comrade Mugabe called on the party to work closely with the government. He said civil servants are free to go into politics, adding that in the future, civil servants who do not support the party will not be employed by the government.